



THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME TWO





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BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE VOLUME 2

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THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME TWO

All stories by **BILL FINGER** and all art by **BOB KANE** except where noted.

DETECTIVE COMICS #46 December 1940

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Professor Strange's Fear Dust" *

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
7

DETECTIVE COMICS #47 January 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Money Can't Buy Happiness" *

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
20

BATMAN #4 Winter 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Joker's Crime Circus"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Blackbeard's Crew and the Yacht Society"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Public Enemy #1" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Victory for the Dynamic Duo" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
34

DETECTIVE COMICS #48 February 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Secret Cavern"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
88

DETECTIVE COMICS #49 March 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Clayface Walks Again"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
102

DETECTIVE COMICS #50 April 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Three Devils"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
116

BATMAN #5 Spring 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane
"The Riddle of the Missing Card"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Book of Enchantment"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"The Case of the Honest Crook!"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Crime Does Not Pay" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
130

WORLD'S BEST COMICS #1 Spring 1941

Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Witch and the Manuscript of Doom"

Inkers: Bob Kane and George Roussos
183

DETECTIVE COMICS #51 May 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Mystery Carnival"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
197

DETECTIVE COMICS #52 June 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Secret of the Jade Box"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
211

DETECTIVE COMICS #53 July 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Viola Vane" *
224

DETECTIVE COMICS #55 September 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Brain Burglar"
319

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #2 Summer 1941
Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Man Who Couldn't Remember"
238

DETECTIVE COMICS #56 October 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Stone Idol"
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DETECTIVE COMICS #54 August 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Hook Morgan and his Harbor Pirates"
252

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #3 Fall 1941
Cover art by Fred Ray
"Riddle of the Human Scarecrow"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
347

BATMAN #6 August-September 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane
"Murder on Parole"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

BATMAN #7 October-November 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane
"Wanted: Practical Jokers" *
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Clock Maker"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Trouble Trap"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Secret of the Iron Jungle"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The North Woods Mystery"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"Suicide Beat"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
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"The People vs. The Batman"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
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*These titles were originally untitled and are titled here for reader convenience.

Until the 1970s, it was not common practice in the comic book industry to credit all stories. In the preparation of this collection, we have used our best efforts to review any surviving records and consult any available databases and knowledgeable parties. We regret the innate limitations of this process and any missing or misassigned attributions that may occur.



No. 46

The **BATMAN**

Detective

COMICS

DEC.

Reed, U.S. Pat. 2,411,111



BAT MAN

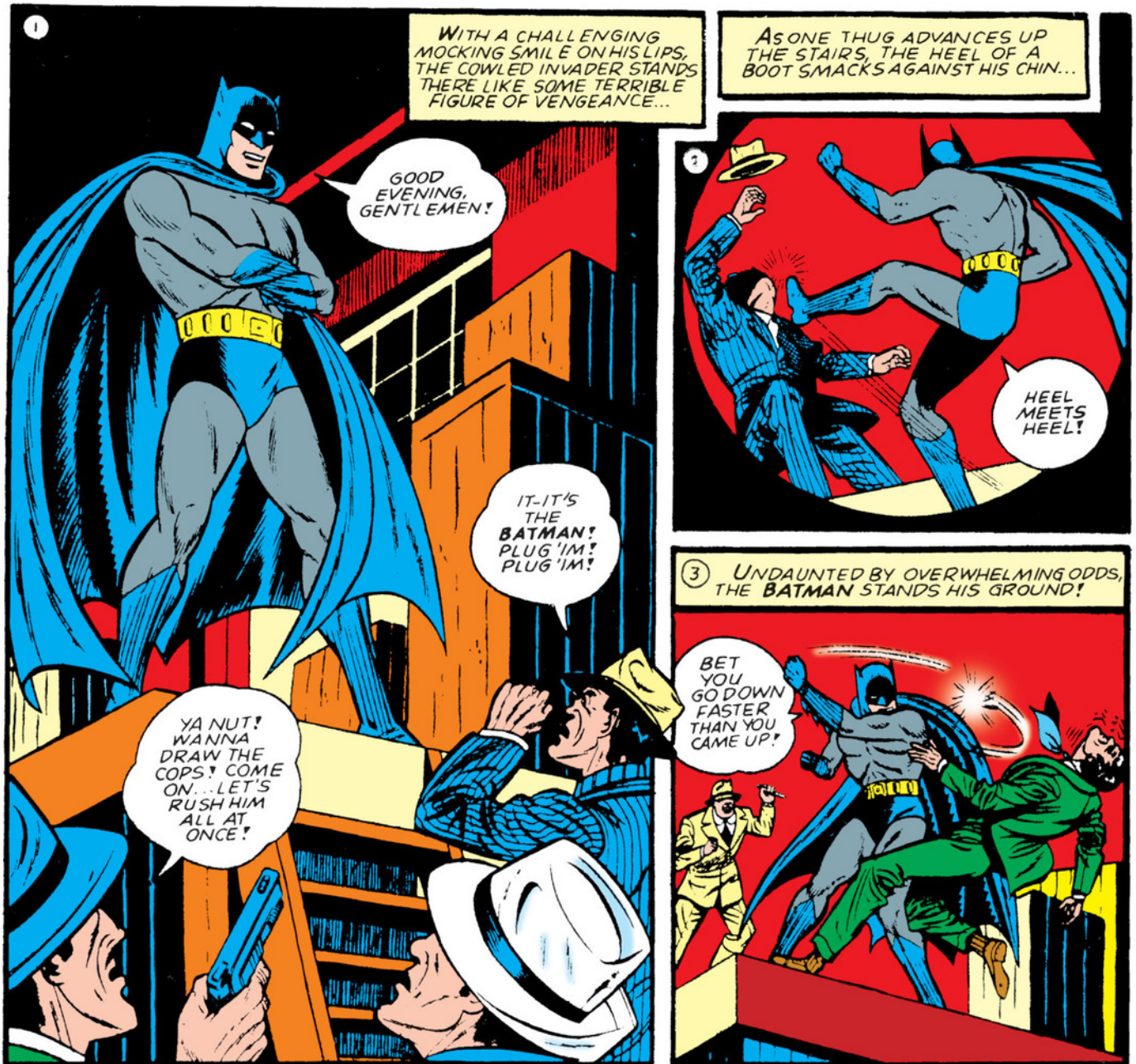
WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

ONCE AGAIN CRIME REARS ITS UGLY HEAD TO PREY UPON SOCIETY.... AND ONCE AGAIN EMERGES THAT SUPER-FOE OF CRIME — THE **BATMAN**! GARBED IN THE HUES OF NIGHT ITSELF, HE HOVERS ABOVE THE HORDES OF EVIL LIKE IMPENDING DOOM.... AND ALWAYS AT HIS SIDE, LIKE A STRONG RIGHT ARM, IS GRINNING, RECKLESS **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, WHO IS SOMETHING OF A CRIME-BUSTER IN HIS OWN RIGHT!

LEITCHER SILVER CO.

AS THE THIEVES BEGIN TO LOOT A WAREHOUSE, SUDDENLY A BAT-CLOAKED SHAPE SWINGS OVER THEIR HEADS...

...TO PLUMMET DOWN LIGHTLY ATOP THE WAREHOUSE STEPS!



① AS THE THUGS SHAKILY PICK THEMSELVES UP!...



② ...THE BATMAN CATAPULTS FORWARD... AND DOWN THEY GO AGAIN!



③ MOVING EASILY, DECEPTIVELY SWIFT AS A STRIKING SNAKE, THE BATMAN WEAVES ABOUT THE MEN, HIS FISTS INDUCING QUICK SLEEP!



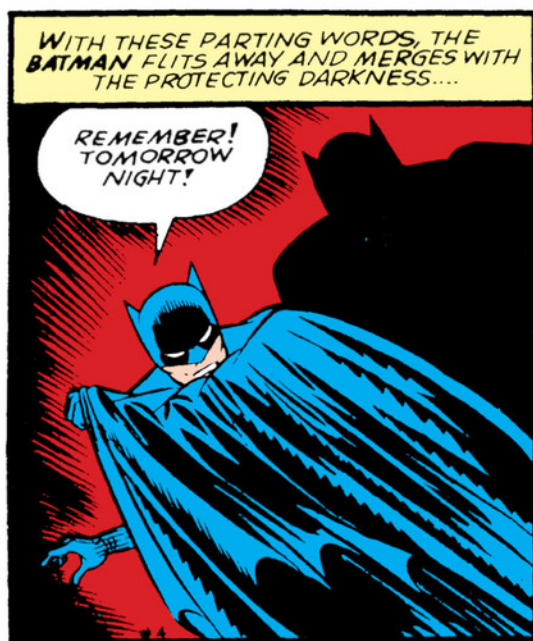
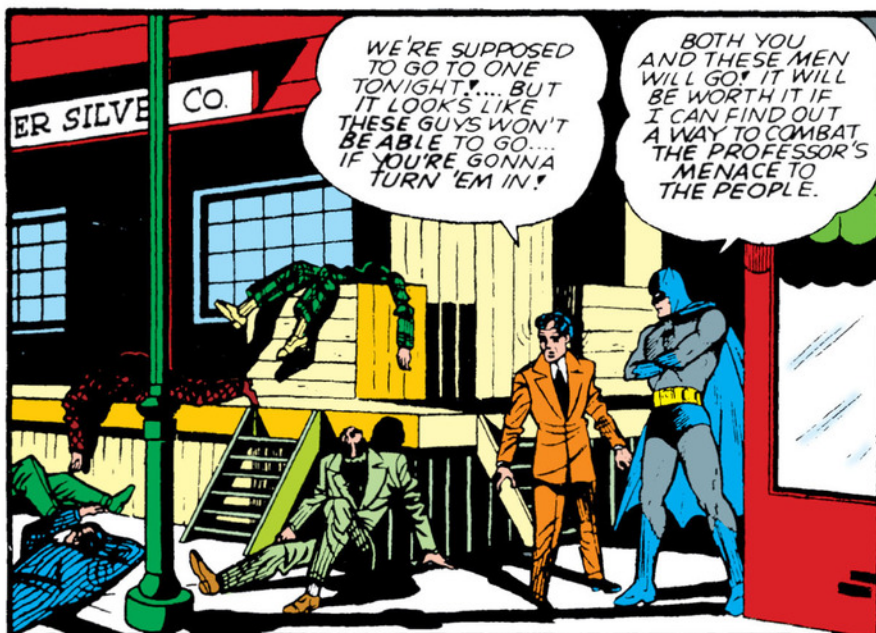
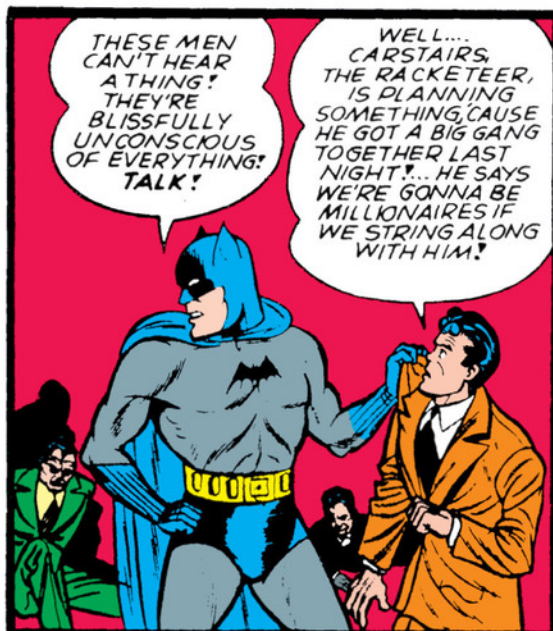
④ AS HIS HAND CLOSES ABOUT A SURVIVING HOODLUM....

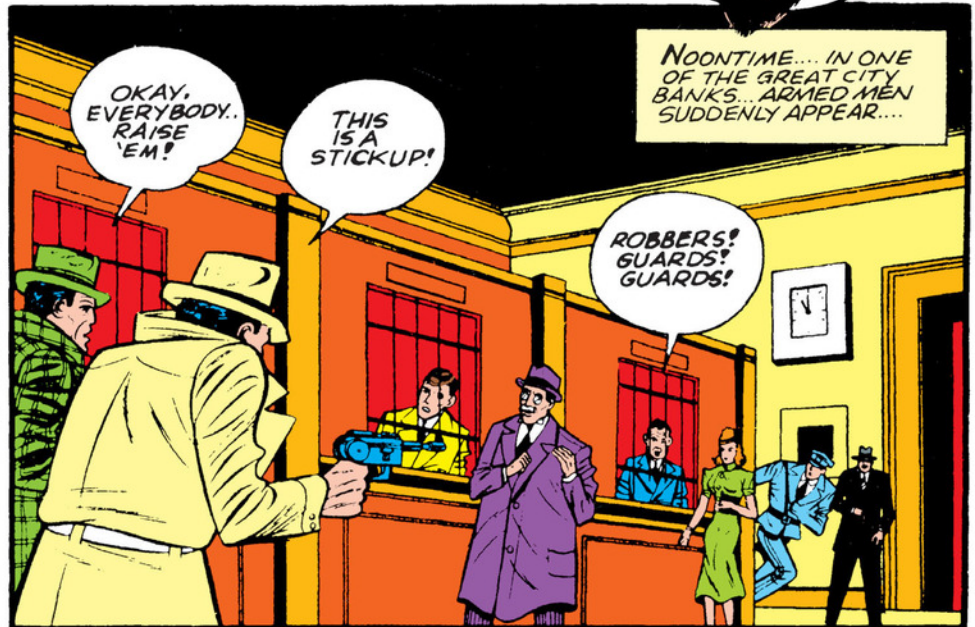
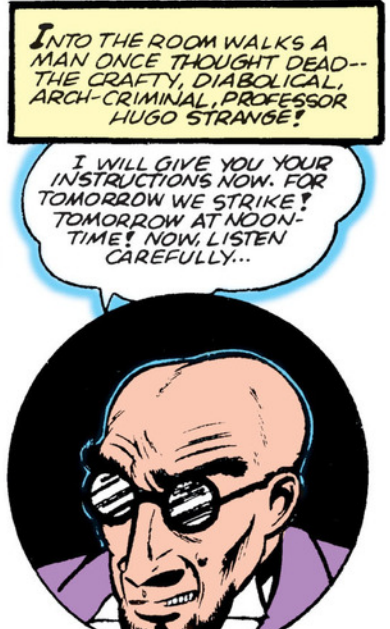
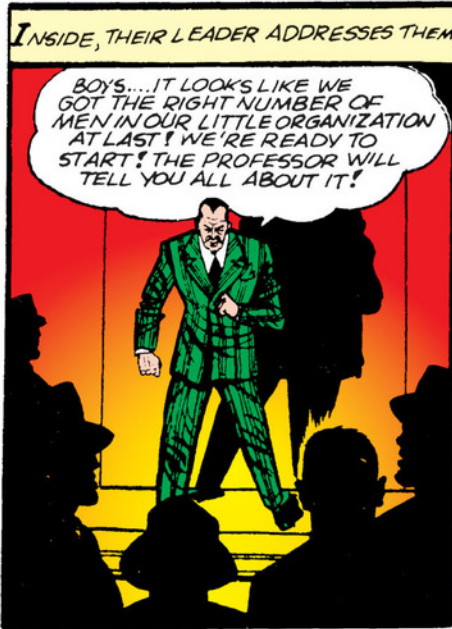
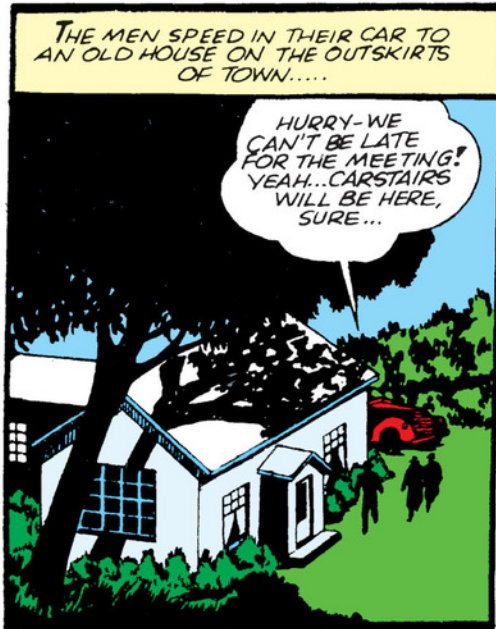


⑤ OKAY, KID, I WON'T HIT YOU - BUT YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL LIKE THE REST OF YOUR PALS!

JAIL! DON'T SEND ME TO JAIL! IT WOULD KILL MY MOTHER! SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS!







TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE POLICE
QUAIL BEFORE THE BANDITS...ICY TERROR
CLUTCHES THEIR HEARTS.....

D-DON'T
HIT
ME!

HAW, HAW!
LOOK AT HIM!...
SCARED STIFF!
HAW
HAW!

FIRST TIME
I EVER
SAW A
POLICEMAN
SCARED BEFORE!
SURE IS A
NOVELTY!

AND ALL OVER THE CITY IT IS THE
SAME! BANDITS LOOT BANKS, WARE-
HOUSES, STORES, AS A STRANGE MALADY
SEIZES THE PEOPLE... FEAR... FEAR HAS
BECOME MASTER OF THE CITY!

AND LATER THAT DAY, WHEN THE BANDITS
BRING THEIR PLUNDER, THAT MASTER OF
VILLAINY, PROFESSOR STRANGE, IS
JUBILANT!

THAT STUFF OF
YOURS IS A
SUCCESS, PROFESSOR!
AND WHAT A
SUCCESS! THERE'S
THE PROOF ON
THE TABLE!

I KNEW MY "FEAR"
DUST WOULD BE!
AND I HAVE A
BIGGER PLAN FOR
IT! AT TONIGHT'S
MEETING I'LL
TELL YOU ALL
ABOUT IT!

AS
THE MEN
PREPARE TO
LEAVE, PROFESSOR
STRANGE'S SHREWD
EYES GROW HARD...

AT LAST
NIGHT'S
MEETING THAT
BOY THERE
LOOKED NERVOUS,
STRAINED! I'VE
A FEELING HE'S
UP TO SOMETHING.

YEAH...
HE DOES
AT THAT!
I'LL HAVE
A FEW
OF THE
BOYS
TAIL
HIM!

THAT
NIGHT, AS
A COWLED
FIGURE DARTS
ACROSS SHADOWY
STREETS, THE CLOCK
TOLLS MIDNIGHT HOUR.... IS
THIS TOLLING THE DEATH-
KNELL OF THE BATMAN?
DOES THE BATMAN KEEP A
RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH?

QUICK!
TELL ME!
IS THE PROFESSOR
RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT
HAPPENED
THIS AFTERNOON?

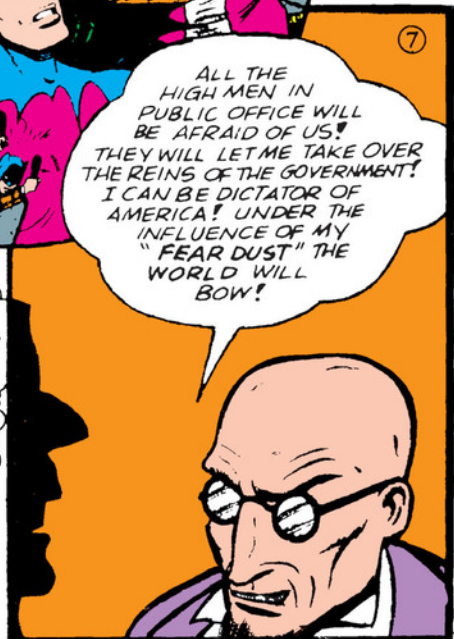
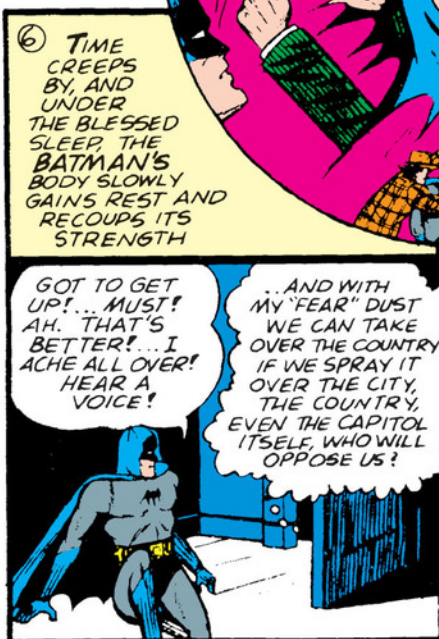
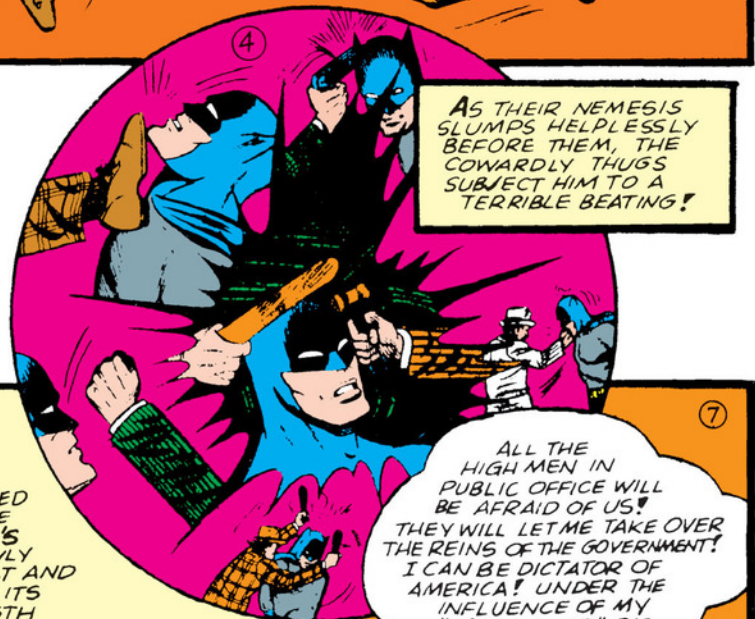
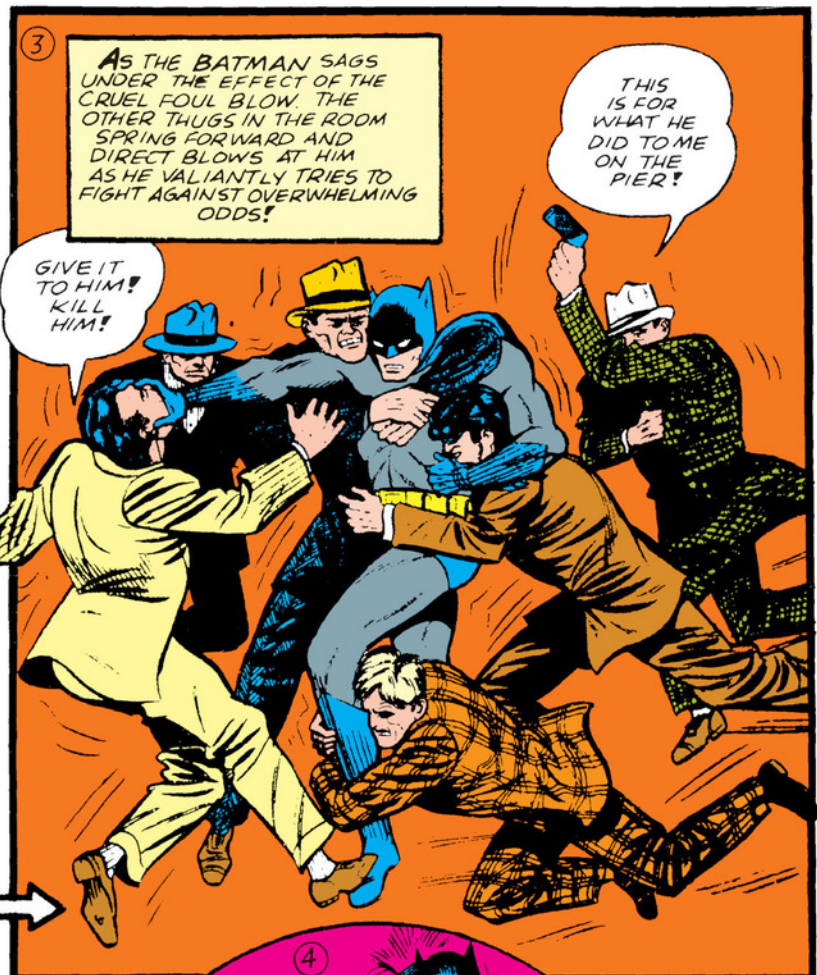
I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
NEVER
GET HERE!

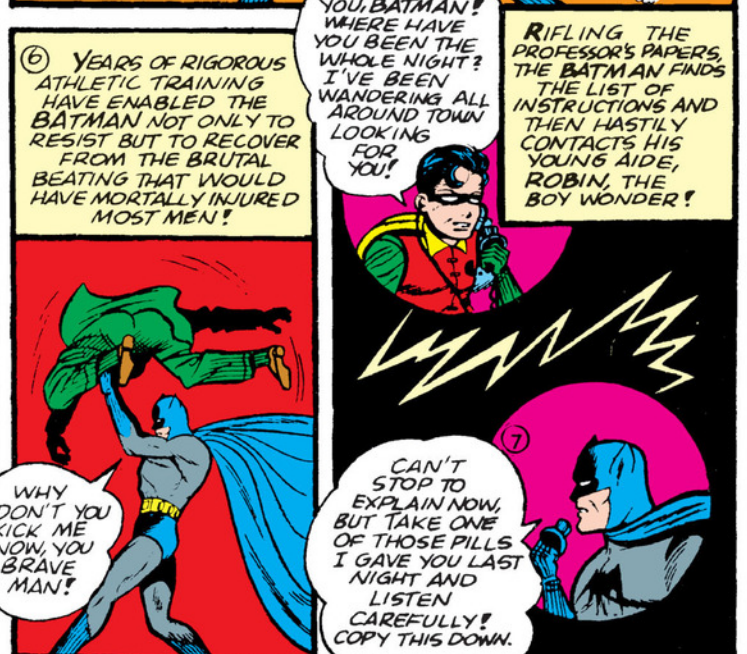
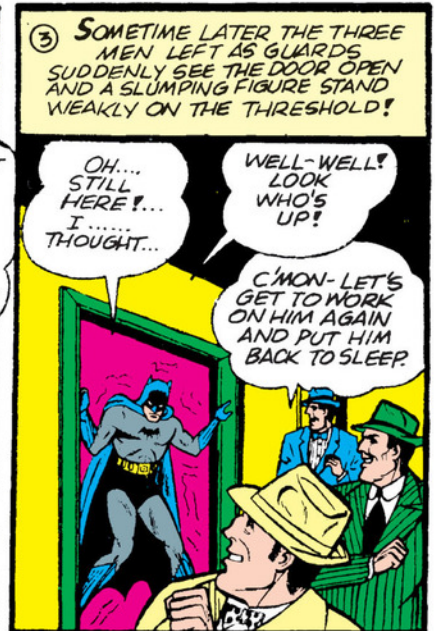
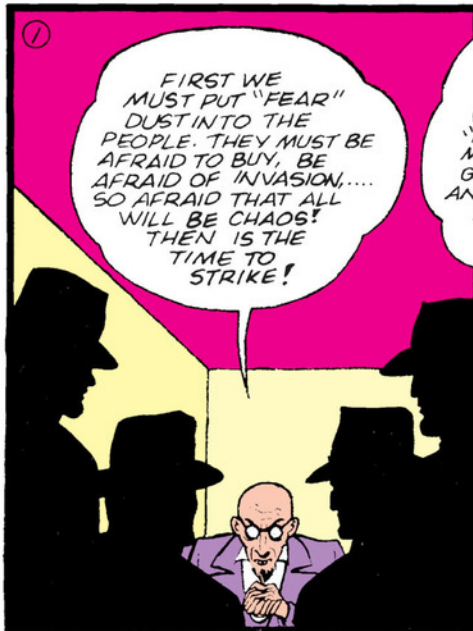
BUT THE BATMAN IS
NEVER TO HEAR THE
ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION, FOR AT THAT
MOMENT A CRUSHING BLOW
RENDERS HIM SENSELESS!

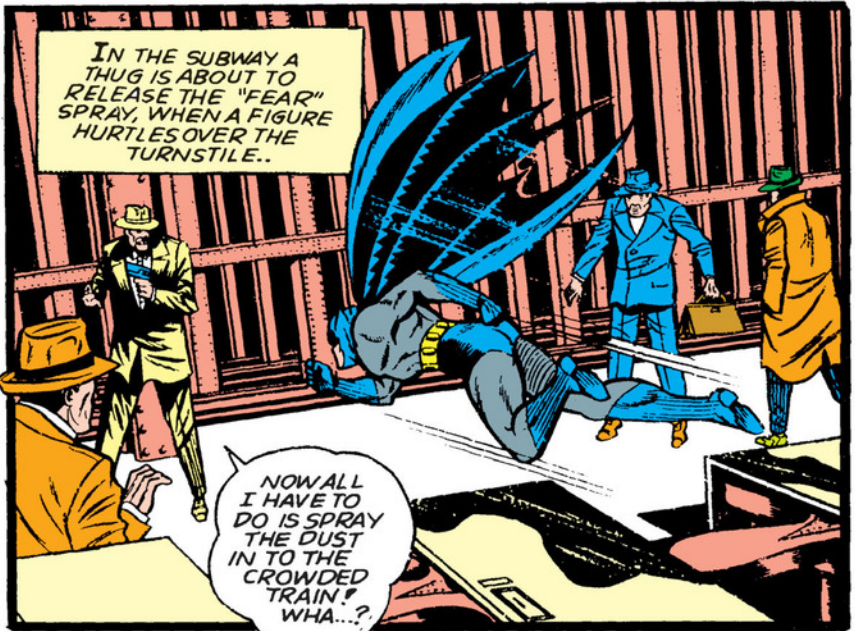
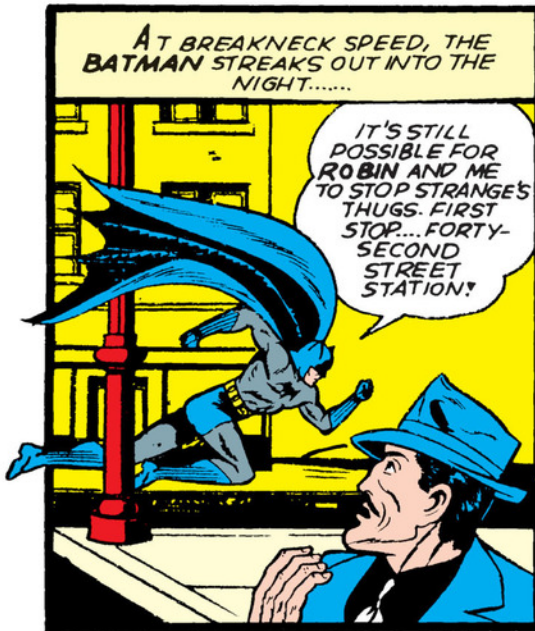
... AND WHEN THE BATMAN AWAKENS,
HE SEES BEFORE HIM A FACE HE HAD
HOPED NEVER TO SEE AGAIN....

PROFESSOR
STRANGE! YOU-
YOU'RE THE
PROFESSOR! I
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN IT
WOULD BE
YOU!

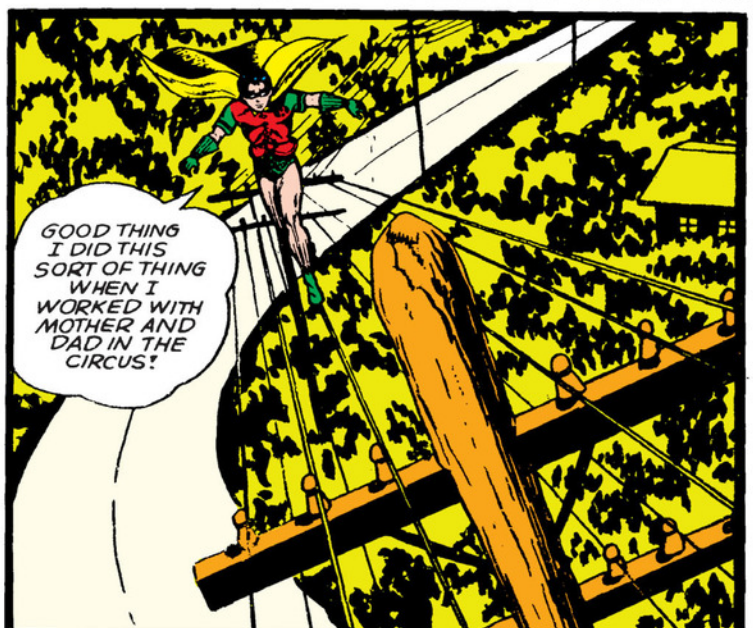
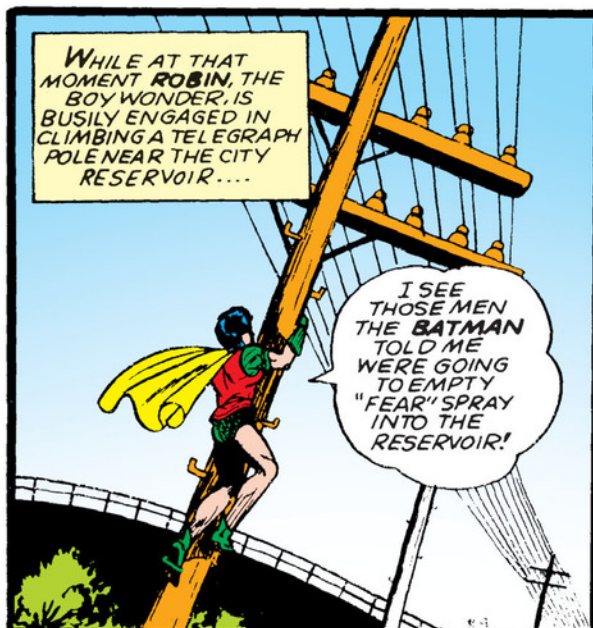
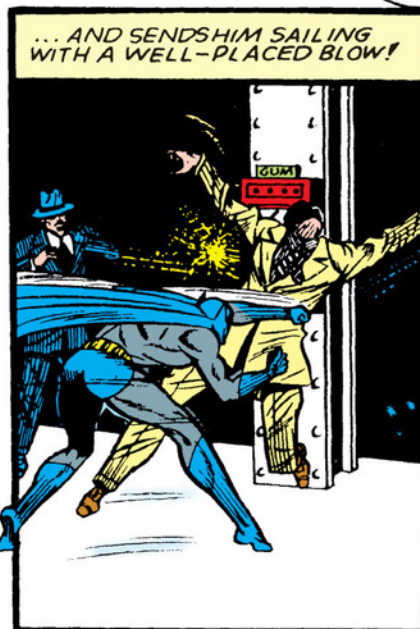
GREETINGS,
BATMAN....
IT SEEMS
THAT FATE
HAS SEEN TO
IT THAT WE
SHOULD MEET
AGAIN! FATE
HAS BEEN UNKIND
THIS TIME... TO
YOU!

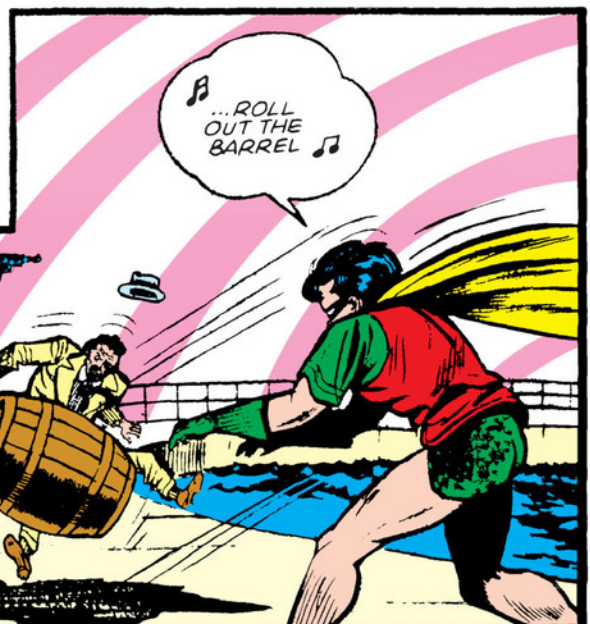
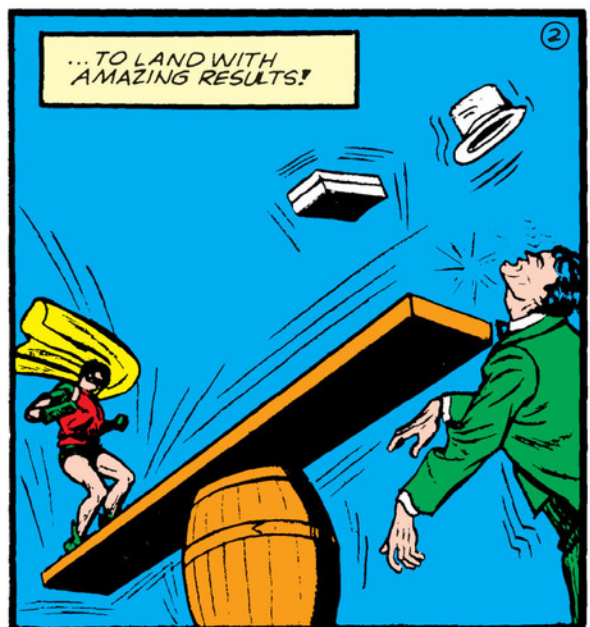
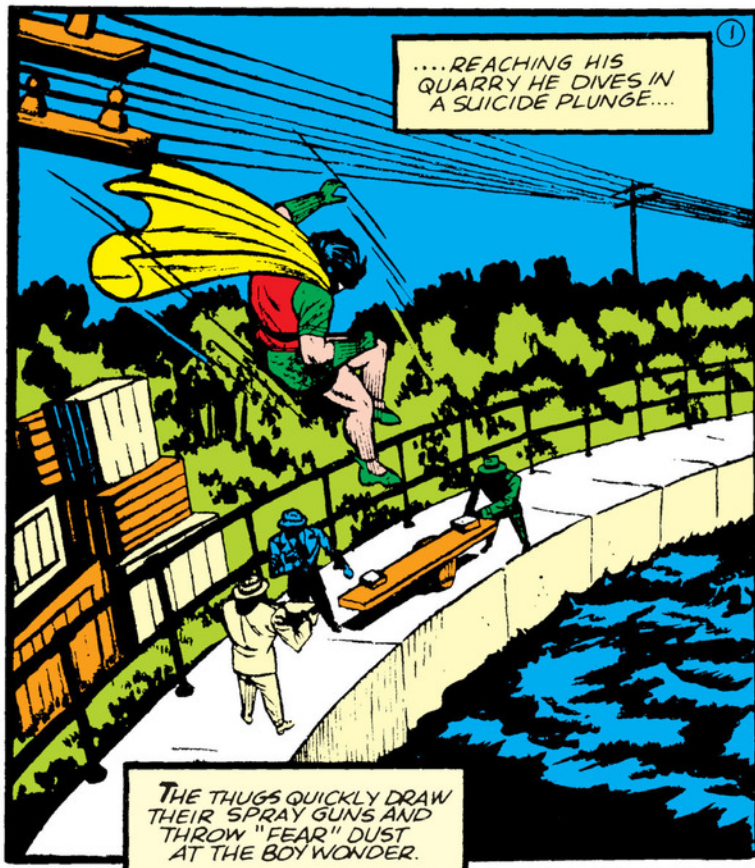


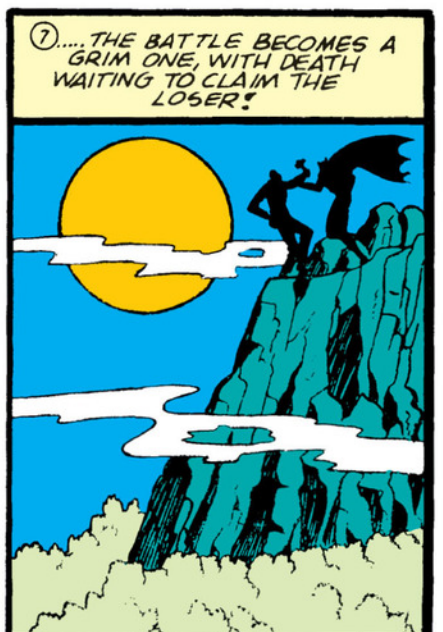
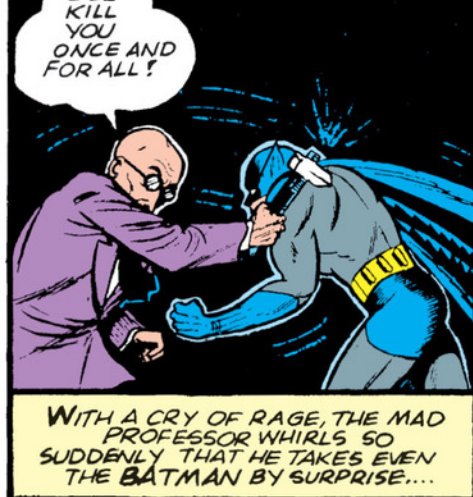
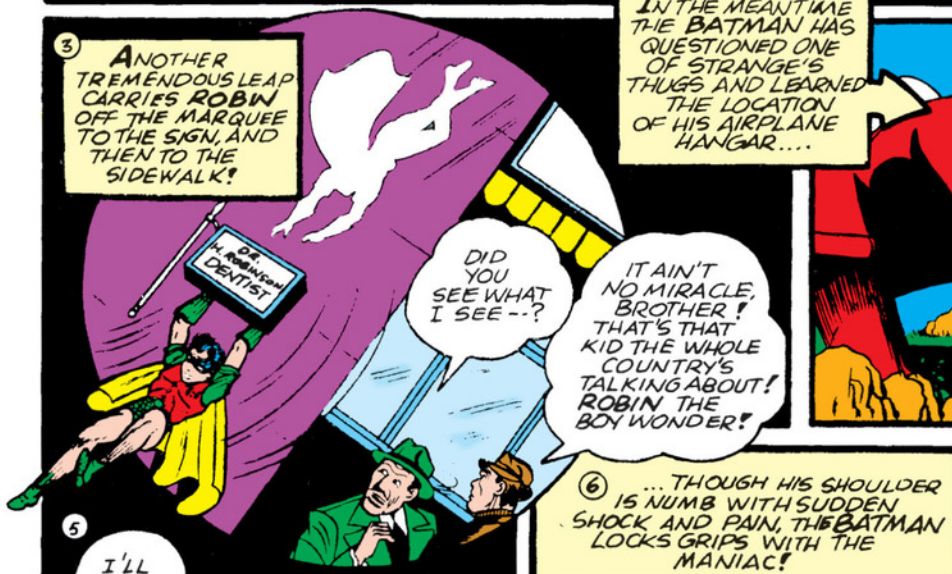
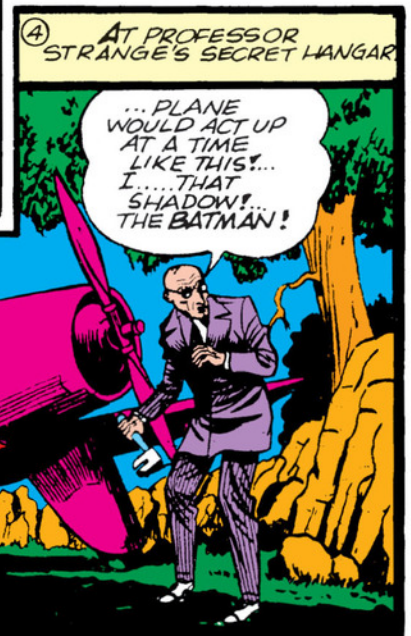
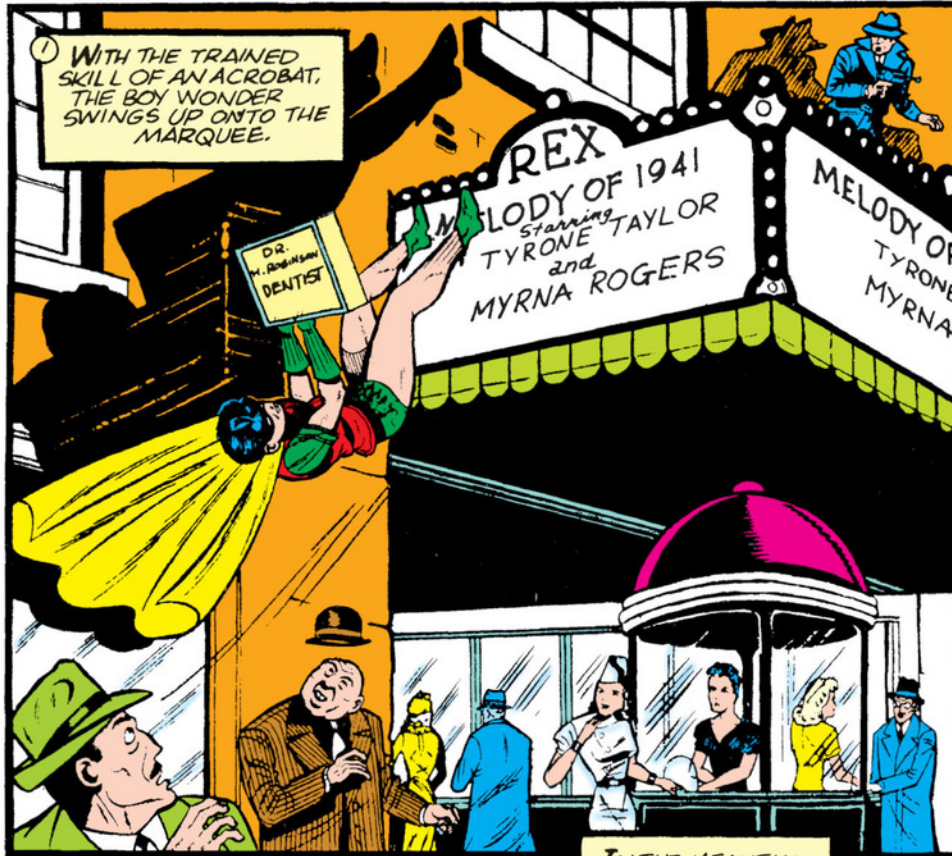




... HE SLAMS INTO HIM LIKE A HUMAN BATTERING RAM....



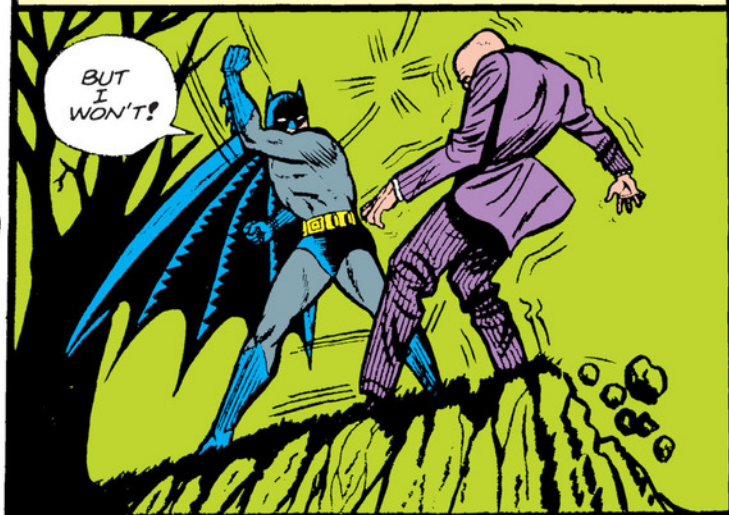




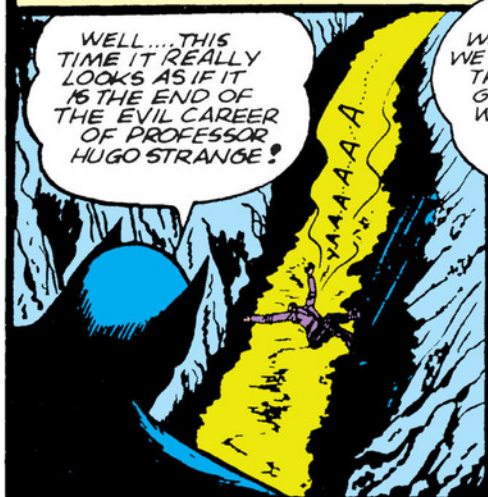
ABRUPTLY, THE ARCH-CRIMINAL MANAGES TO LOOSEN HIS HAND, AND LASHES OUT AT THE BATMAN....



.... BUT THE NIMBLE BATMAN IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT NAPPING A SECOND TIME. THERE IS A CRACK LIKE THAT OF A RIFLE SHOT AS HIS FISTS LAND ON THE CRIMINAL'S CHIN.....



...FOR A MOMENT HE TEETERS ON THE EDGE, CLAWING FOR BALANCE, AND THEN WITH A TRAILING SHRIEK TOPPLES TO HIS DOOM!



THAT NIGHT, AS THE MOON SHEDS ITS LIGHT OVER A NOW PEACEFUL CITY, TWO FIGURES STAND ON A LONELY ROAD....



YOU KNOW... IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PECULIAR SIGHT TO SEE POLICEMEN AFRAID FOR THE FIRST TIME....

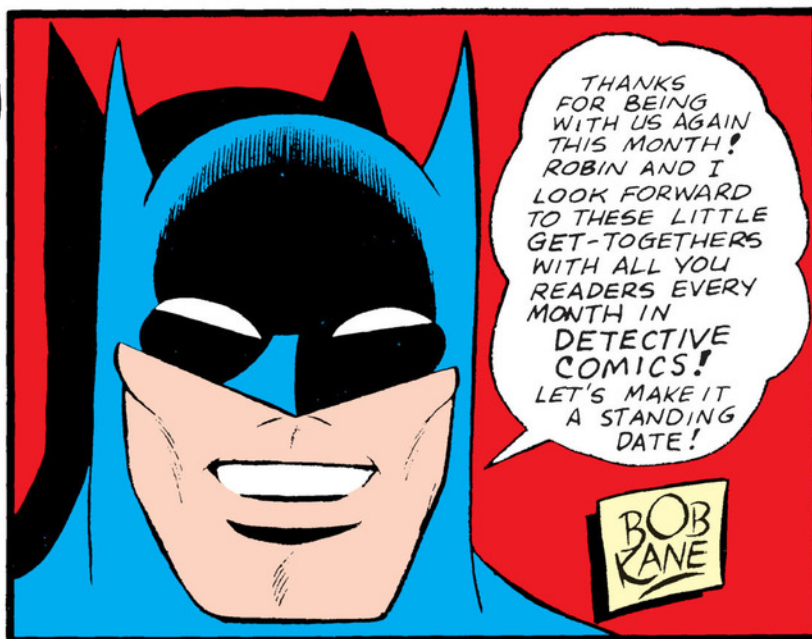


WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE THE "FEAR" DUST AFFECTED? WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM?

I'LL GIVE THE PILLS TO A RESEARCH LABORATORY. THEY'LL FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF AND MAKE ENOUGH ANTIDOTE FOR THOSE POOR UNFORTUNATES!



THANKS FOR BEING WITH US AGAIN THIS MONTH! ROBIN AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THESE LITTLE GET-TOGETHERS WITH ALL YOU READERS EVERY MONTH IN DETECTIVE COMICS! LET'S MAKE IT A STANDING DATE!





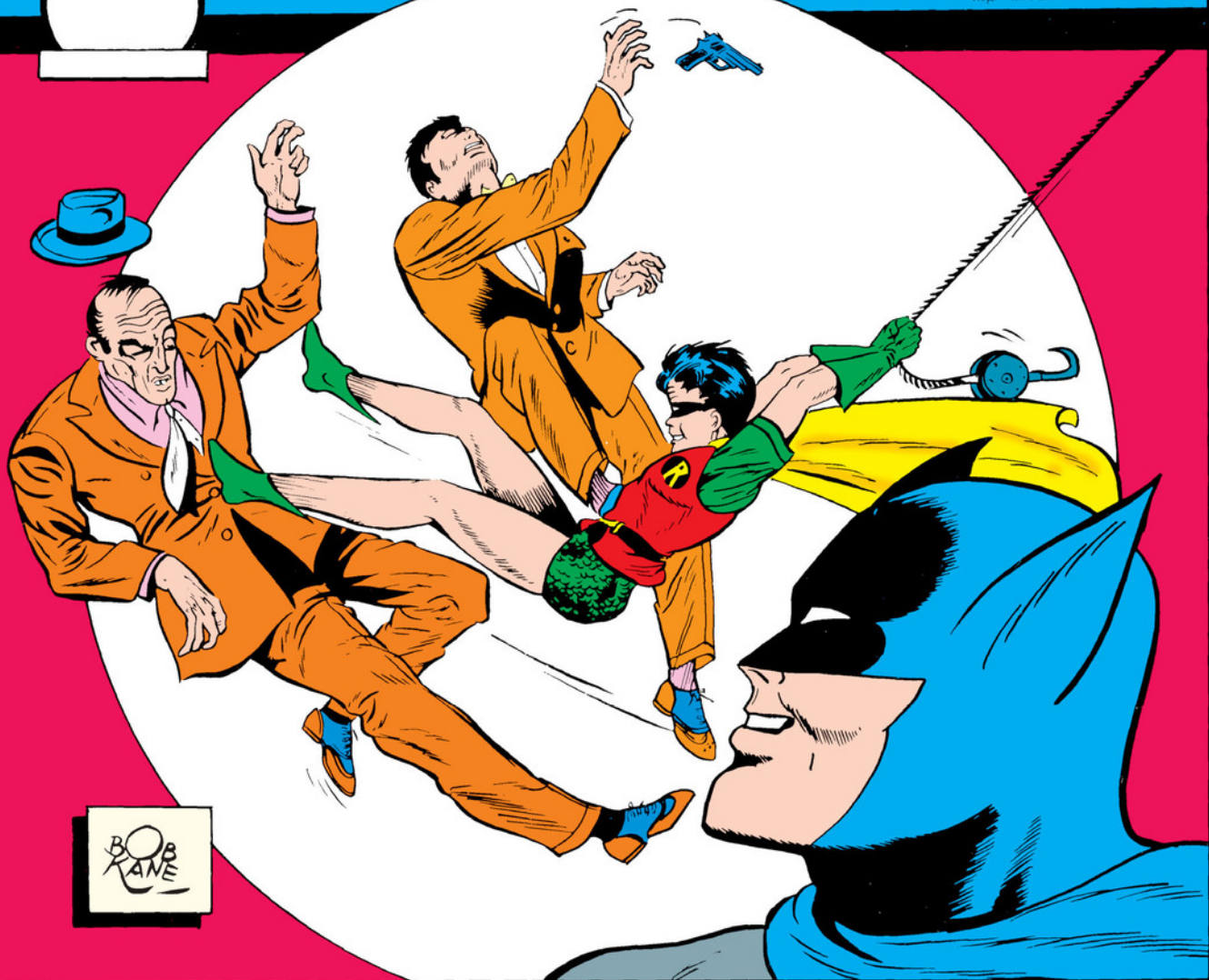
No. 47



JAN.

Detective COMICS

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

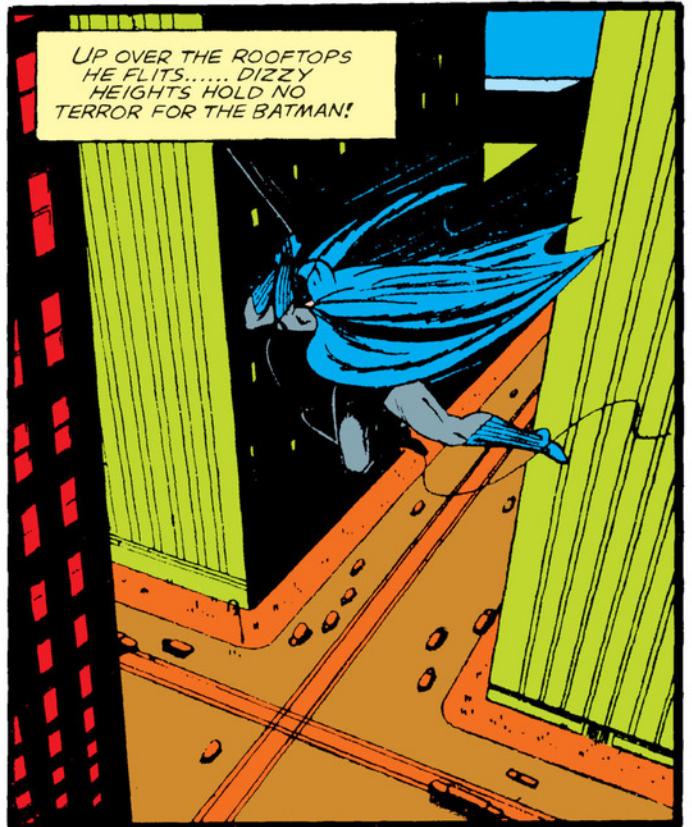
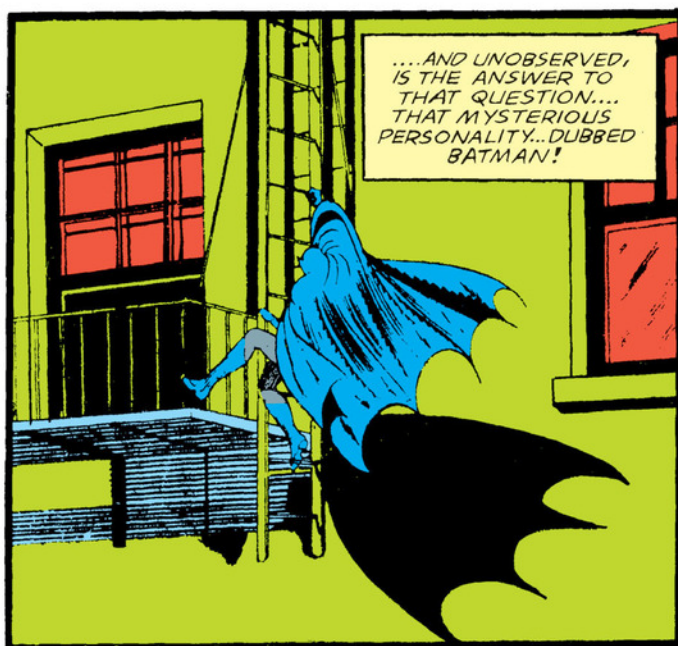
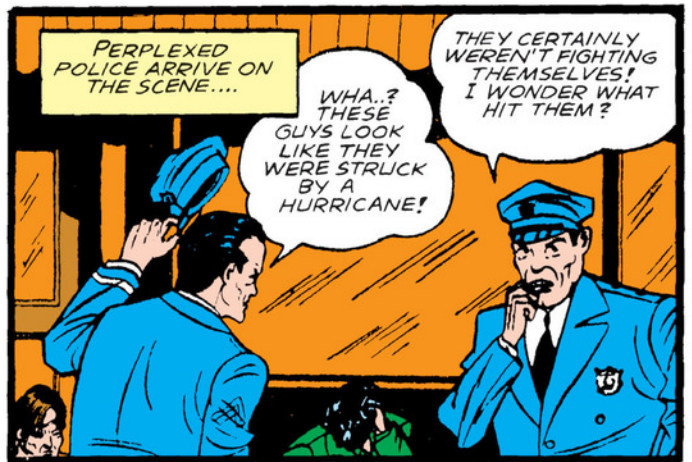
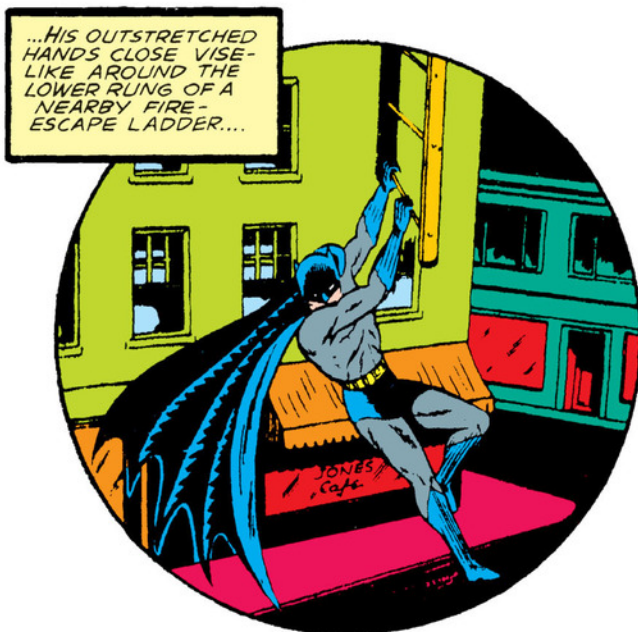
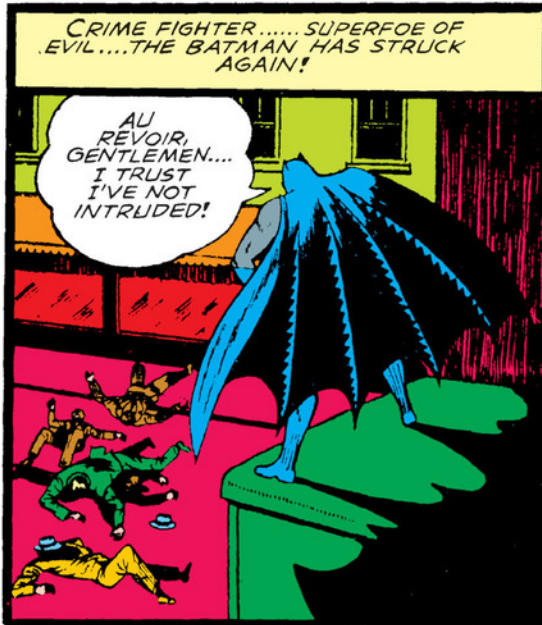
ALL THE WORLD KNOWS OF THE BATMAN! HE IS A CREATION OF THE NIGHT... ELUSIVE AS A SMEAR OF SMOKE DANGEROUS AS A STRIKING PANTHER IT IS HE, AND HIS DARING YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO, BY THEIR WITS AND THUNDERING FISTS, WAGE UNCEASING WAR AGAINST CRIME, AND BRING JUSTICE WHERE IT HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE!....

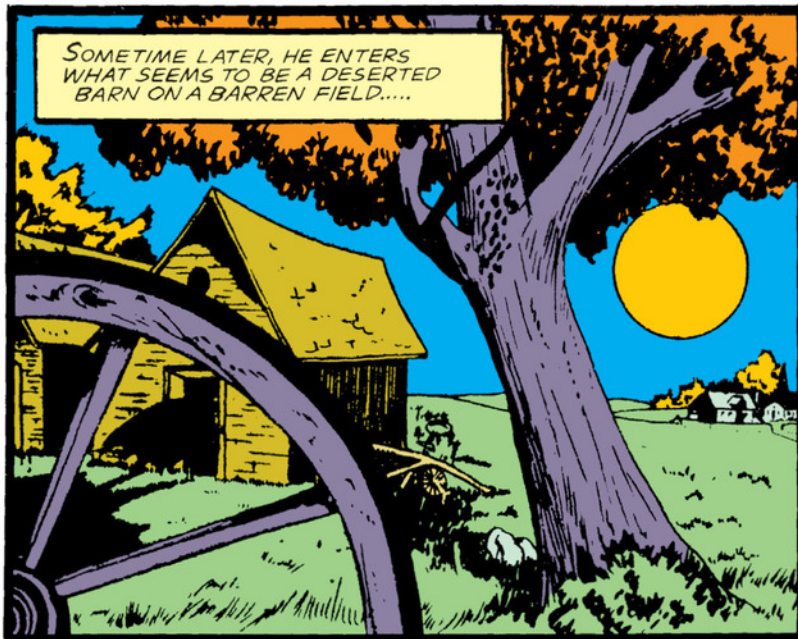
BY
BOB KANE

KNOX FURS

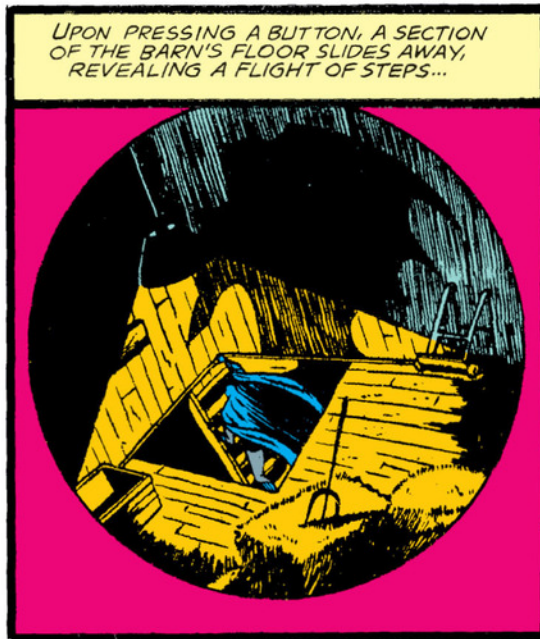
AS HOODLUMS ARE ENGAGED IN HIJACKING A TRUCKLOAD OF FURS, SUDDENLY, A MANTLED FIGURE DROPS ATOP THE TRUCK, AND PLUCKING UP A SQUIRMING THUG FROM THE RUNNING BOARD.....

HURLS HIM LIKE A RAG DOLL AT THE CRIMINALS BELOW!

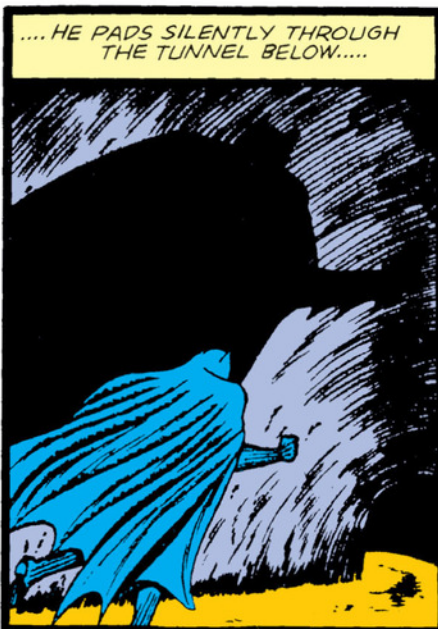




SOMETIME LATER, HE ENTERS WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DESERTED BARN ON A BARREN FIELD....



UPON PRESSING A BUTTON, A SECTION OF THE BARN'S FLOOR SLIDES AWAY, REVEALING A FLIGHT OF STEPS...



.... HE PADS SILENTLY THROUGH THE TUNNEL BELOW....



... HE ASCENDS ANOTHER FLIGHT OF STEPS AT THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL....



.... AND STEPS THROUGH ANOTHER PANEL INTO A LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED ROOM!

H'YA DICKEY, M'LAD!

THE SECRET LABYRINTH HAS LED TO THE LAIR OF THE BATMAN!



...JUST A MINOR SKIRMISH WITH THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT! ANYONE PHONE WHILE I WAS GONE?

YOUR BANKER, HARVEY MIDAS, SAID TO CALL IN THE MORNING FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON YOUR HOLDINGS!

...IN THE MORNING, HE STEPS FROM THE DOORWAY OF HIS PRIVATE HOME,... NOT AS THE EERIE BATMAN... BUT AS THE SPENDTHRIFT, PLEASURE-LOVING SOCIETY PLAY BOY.... BRUCE WAYNE!



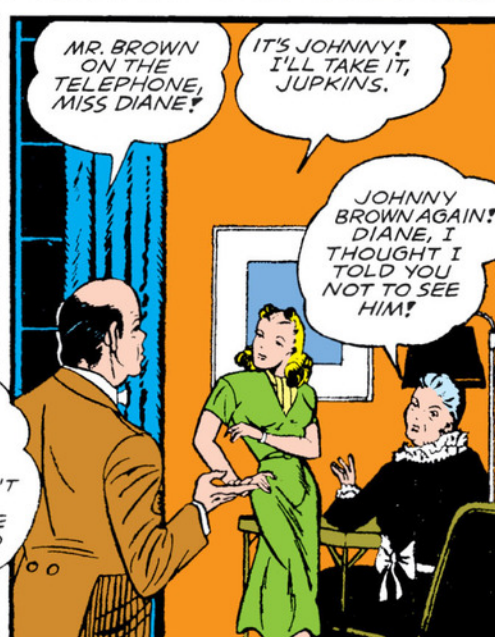
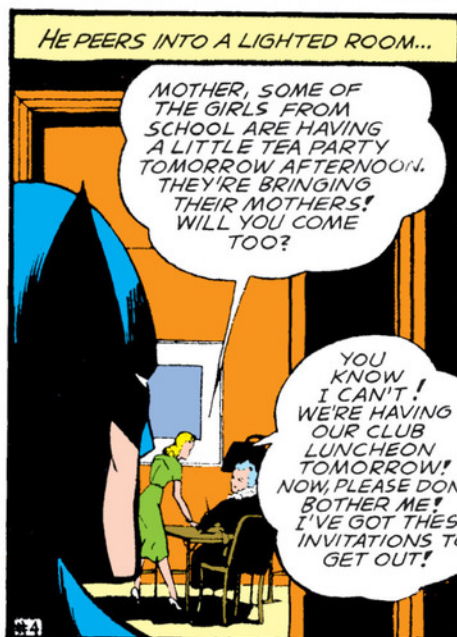
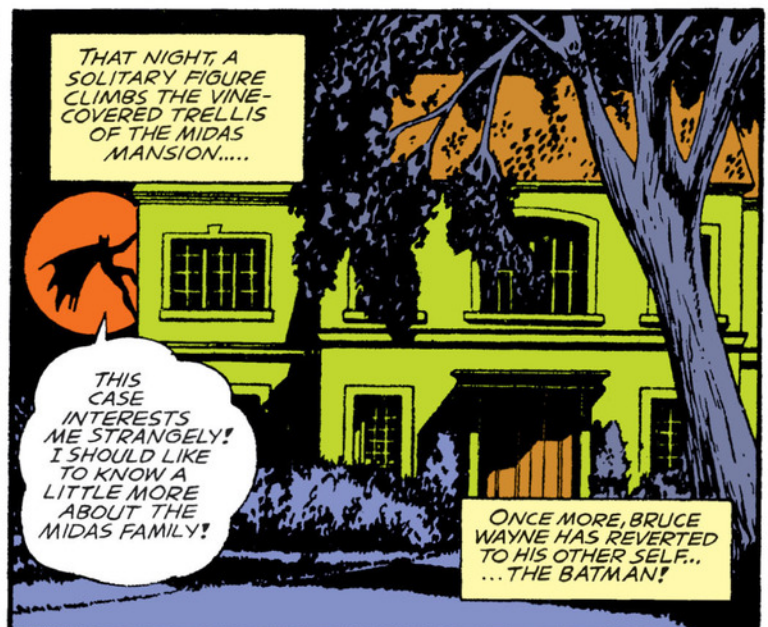
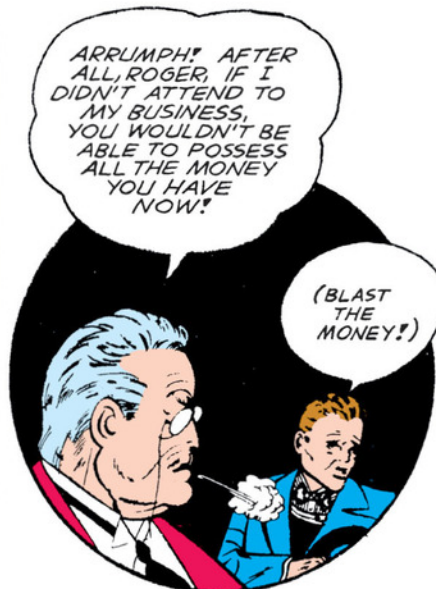
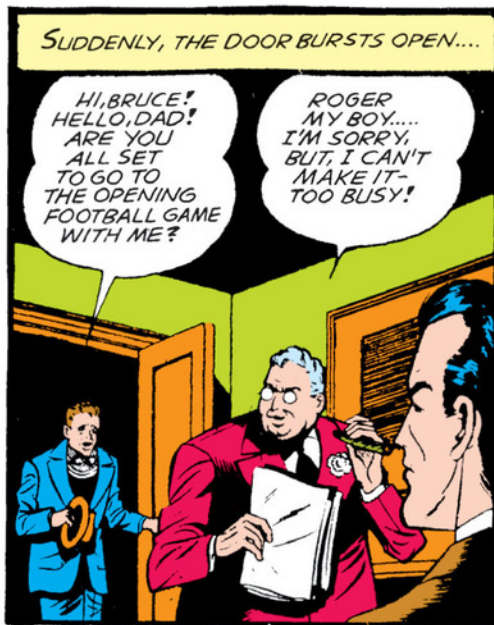
HMM! NICE DAY FOR A BIT OF POLO!



LATER, HE ENTERS THE SUMPTUOUS OFFICE OF HARVEY MIDAS, MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BANKER.

HELLO MIDAS! HOW'S THE MARKET BEEN TREATING YOU LATELY?

ARRUMPH! NOT BAD, BRUCE... NOT BAD! NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! CAN ONLY SPARE A MOMENT OR TWO! PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU KNOW!



IN THE ENSUING DAYS, BRUCE WAYNE IS SEEN IN MANY NIGHT SPOTS,....

I SEE BRUCE WAYNE IS OUT AGAIN TONIGHT. DOESN'T HE EVER GO HOME?

THAT FELLOW'S CHIEF OCCUPATION SEEMS TO BE JUST RUNNING AROUND THE NIGHTCLUBS!

BUT THEY ARE WRONG, FOR BRUCE WAYNE'S CHIEF OCCUPATION AT THE MOMENT IS KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOUNG ROGER MIDAS!

THAT KID HAS BEEN HITTING IT UP QUITE A BIT THESE NIGHTS!

YOUNG ROGER IS SEEN AT THE GAMBLING TABLES, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.... BUT, ALWAYS LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND, IS BRUCE WAYNE!

BETS, PLEASE!

100 ON 18 RED.

ONE NIGHT, BRUCE IS SURPRISED WHEN ROGER PICKS UP A CLARINET FROM ONE OF THE MEN OF THE NIGHTCLUB BAND AND PLAYS ALONG WITH THEM...

... SAY- THAT BOY'S GOOD!

... AND WHEN BRUCE CALLS ROGER TO HIS TABLE AND ASKS HIM ABOUT IT..

SAY, ROG.... YOU CAN REALLY PLAY THAT THING, CAN'T YOU?

YOU NEVER KNEW I WANTED TO LEAD MY OWN ORCHESTRA, DID YOU? FATHER WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT.. SAID IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE SON OF HARVEY MIDAS TO BE A MERE ORCHESTRA LEADER!

IT IS NOT SO LONG AFTER, THAT DIANE MIDAS MAKES HER DEBUT INTO SOCIETY.... AND WHAT A DEBUT IT IS.....

Society
by Jerry Robinson

DIANE MIDAS MAKES DEBUT

DEB'S COMING OUT PARTY COSTS \$50,000

MOST LAVISH OF ALL DEBUTS

... AND UNDER THE STRONG INFLUENCE OF HER SOCIAL-MINDED FATHER AND MOTHER MARRIES NOT JOHNNY BROWN, BUT A DEFUNCT EUROPEAN COUNT!

DARLING! NOW, YOU ARE MINE!

YES, AND SO'S MY MONEY!

AND AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE PONDER'S...

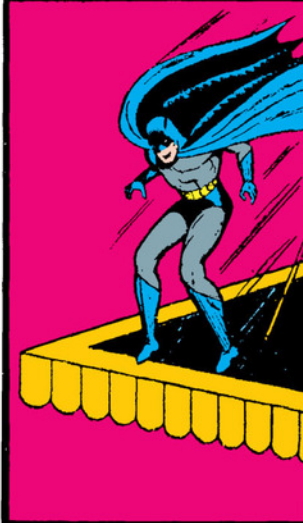
FATHER AND MOTHER MIDAS HAVE CERTAINLY MADE A WRECK OF THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING I COULD DO.... IF ONLY SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN....

BUT, SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN.... EVENTS HAVE ALREADY SHAPED THEMSELVES SO THAT BRUCE WAYNE MAY DISCARD THE ROLE OF IDLE PLAYBOY, AND BECOME THE EERIE BATMAN.

IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, ROGER IS SEEN CONSTANTLY WITH EVIL COMPANIONS...ONE NIGHT AS GAMBLERS AND HE PREPARE FOR A GALA EVENING....



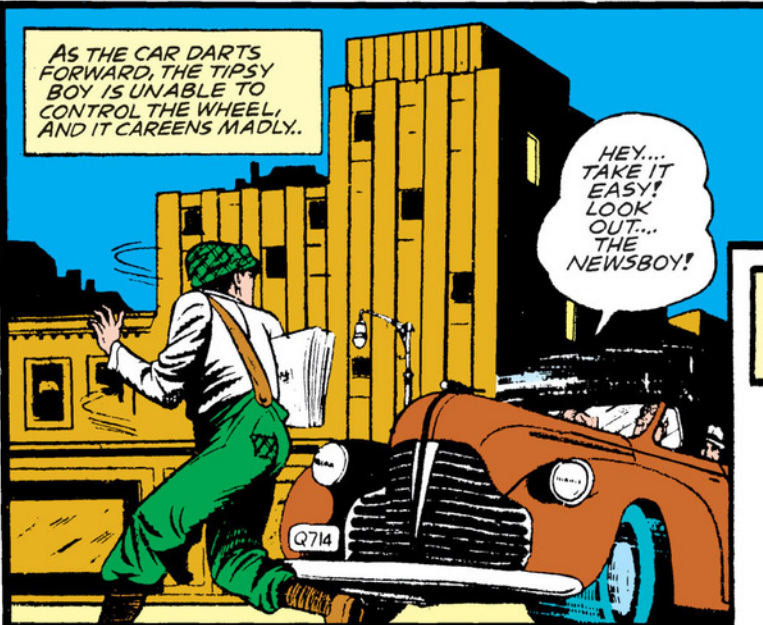
AS IF OUT OF THE EMPTY SKY, A WEIRD FIGURE PLUMMETS DOWN!



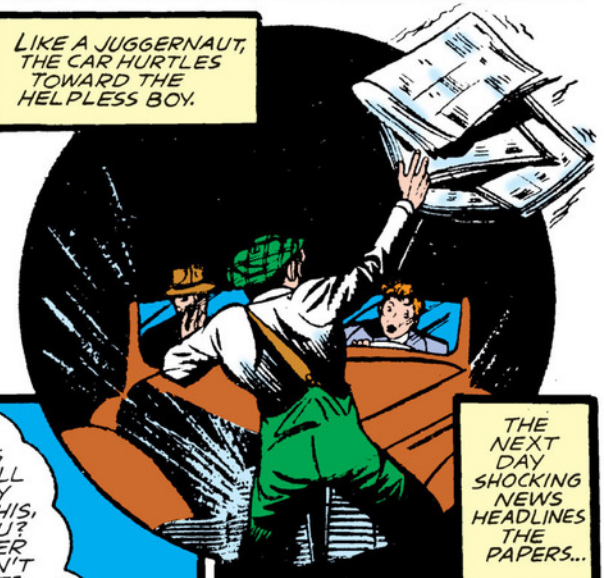
STRANGE COMPANY YOU KEEP, ROGER - TIN HORN GAMBLERS!



AS THE CAR DARTS FORWARD, THE TIPSY BOY IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE WHEEL, AND IT CAREENS MADLY.



LIKE A JUGGERNAUT, THE CAR HURTTLES TOWARD THE HELPLESS BOY.



...THE CAR SPEEDS AWAY, LEAVING BEHIND A STILL FORM SPRAWLED IN THE GUTTER!



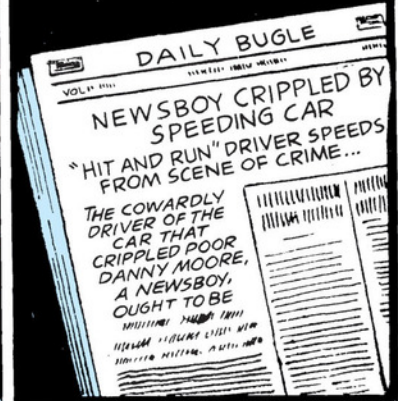
YOU FELLOWS WON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS, WILL YOU? MY FATHER WOULDN'T LIKE IT!

YEAH! I GUESS HE WOULDN'T WANT IT KNOWN THAT HIS SON WAS A HIT AND RUN DRIVER!

SURE! THAT WOULDN'T BE SO NICE FOR THE SON OF HARVEY MIDAS!



THE NEXT DAY SHOCKING NEWS HEADLINES THE PAPERS...



.... AND THAT VERY NIGHT, IN THE MIDAS HOME.....

...AND YOU MEAN TO SAY THESE MEN WANT \$5000 FROM ME TO KEEP THEM QUIET ABOUT THIS UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT...OR ELSE THEY WILL TELL THE NEWSPAPERS?

YES! THEY SAID YOU WOULD PAY ANYTHING TO KEEP SOME MUD FROM SMEARING THE FAMILY NAME! WHAT CAN WE DO?

ABRUPTLY.....

-DO NOTHING AND TAKE YOUR PUNISHMENT! DO YOU THINK THAT ONE PAYMENT WILL STOP THESE MEN? THEY'LL BLACKMAIL YOU ALL YOUR LIFE!

WHU?

WHA? WHO ARE YOU?

THE BATMAN- AT YOUR SERVICE... AND GIVING YOU SOME SOUND ADVICE. DO NOT GIVE IN TO THE BLACKMAILERS' DEMANDS!

BATMAN, EH? WELL, MR BATMAN, I'LL DO AS I SEE FIT. PLEASE MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!

MIDAS, YOU THINK YOUR MONEY CAN BUY ANYTHING? ONE THING IT CAN'T BUY IS YOUR SON'S SELF-RESPECT!

GET OUT! ...GET OUT!

... AND ON THE FLOOR BELOW, IS ANOTHER COSTUMED FIGURE....ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

I'M SORRY, ALEXIS. I DON'T LOVE YOU! I ONLY MARRIED YOU BECAUSE OF MOTHER AND DAD! I'M LEAVING FOR RENO IN THE MORNING!

YOU CAN'T DIVORCE ME....YOU CAN'T!

IF SHE DIVORCES ME, I WON'T HAVE ANY INCOME TO LIVE ON! HM! THINK I'LL HAVE TO DO AS I DID WITH MY FIRST WIFE!

SLAM

AS ALEXIS LEAVES AND SPEEDS AWAY IN HIS CAR, A SMALL FIGURE IS SEEN CLINGING TO THE TIRE-RACK...IT IS THE BOY WONDER, ROBIN!

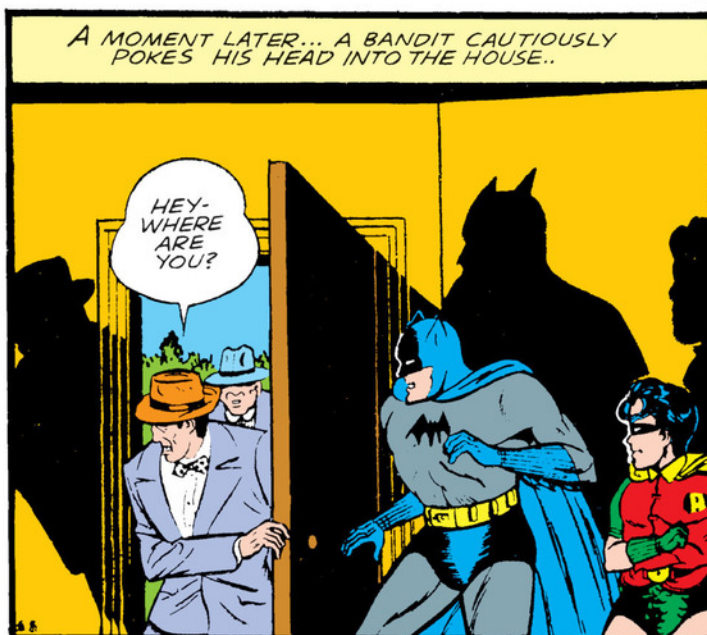
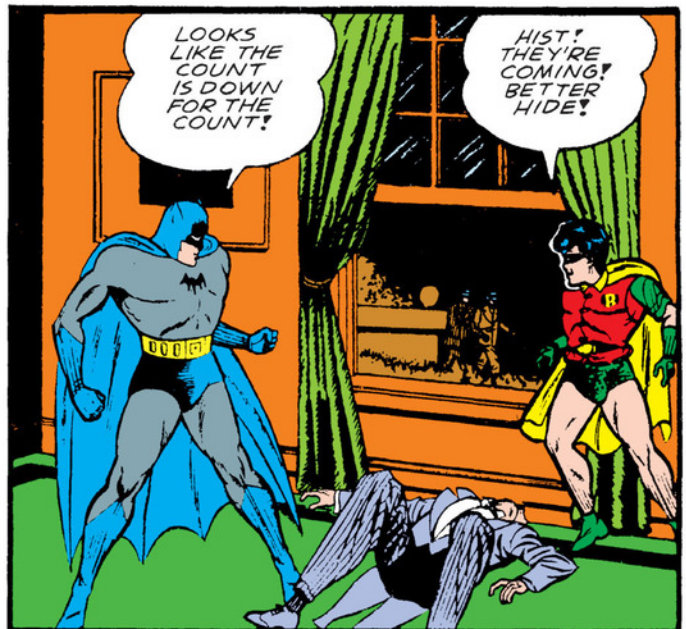
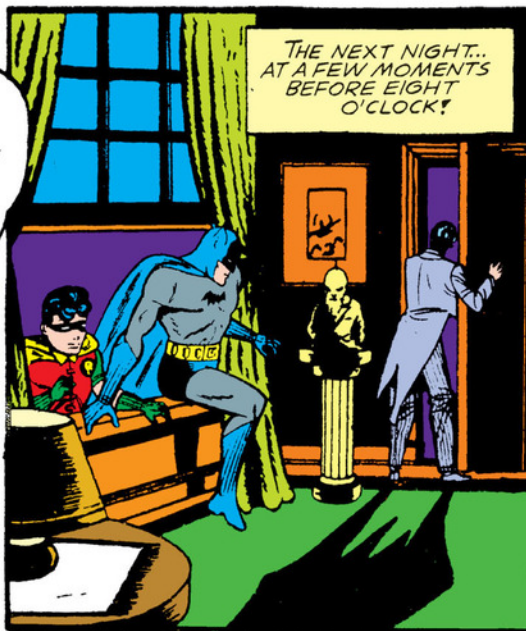
GOOD THING THE BATMAN TOLD ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS BIRD! HE'S UP TO NO GOOD!

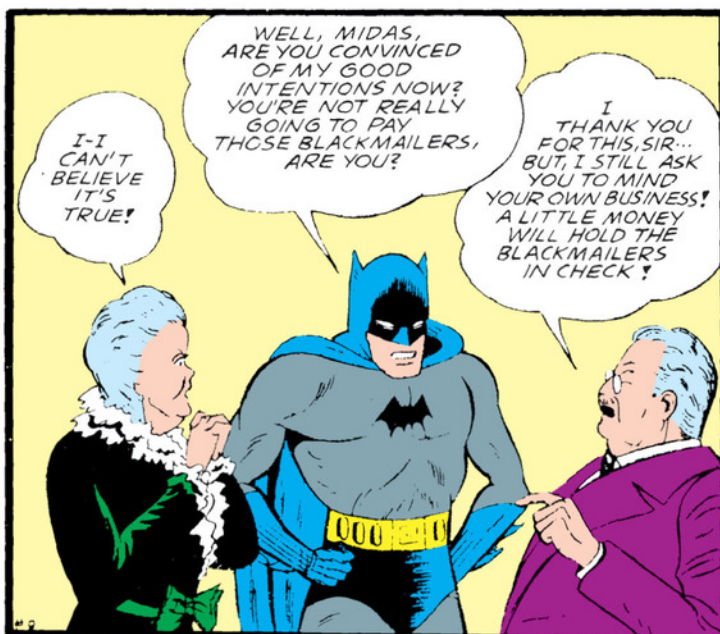
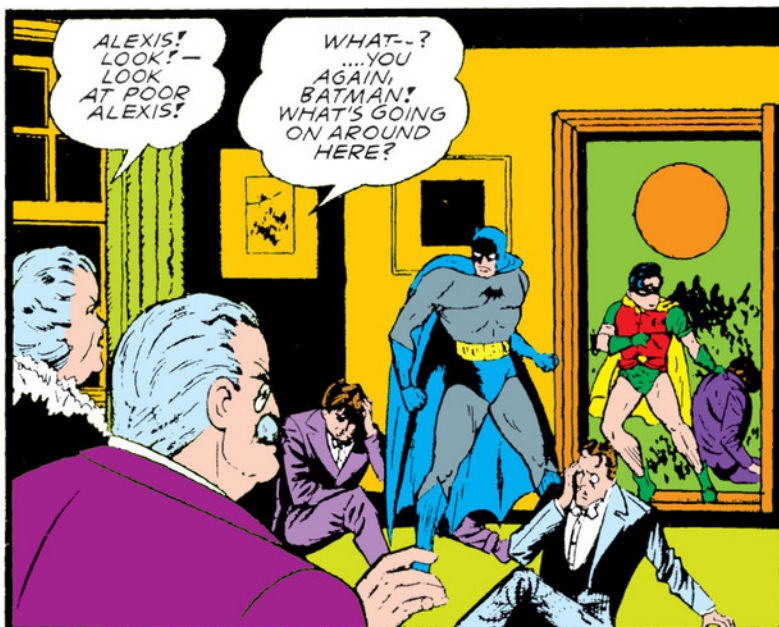
ALEXIS QUICKLY CONTACTS TWO HOODLUMS. AS THEY PLOT, THEY ARE UNAWARE THAT THEIR TALK IS HEARD BY THE WONDER BOY!

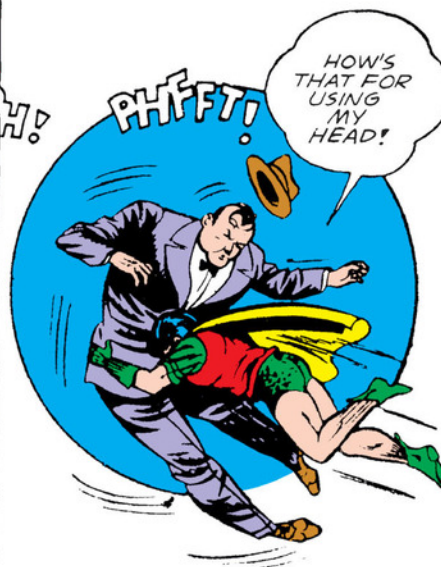
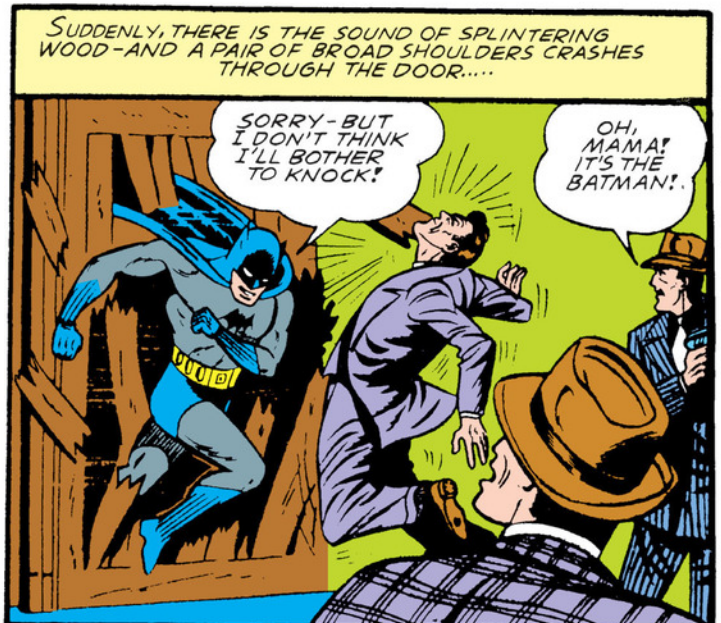
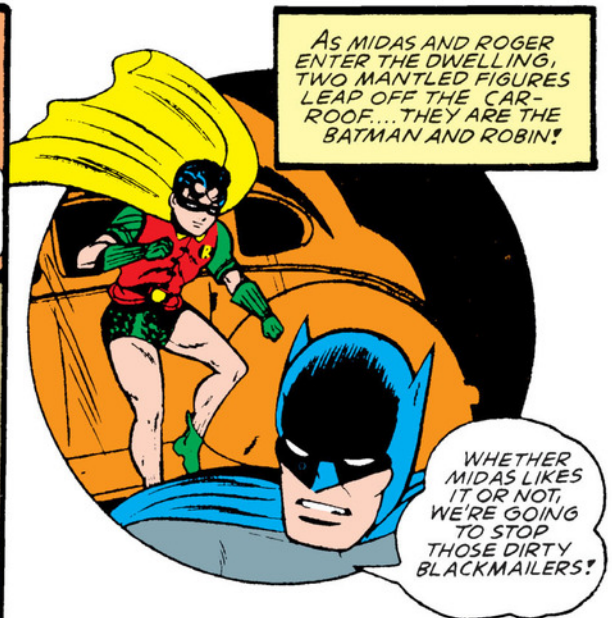
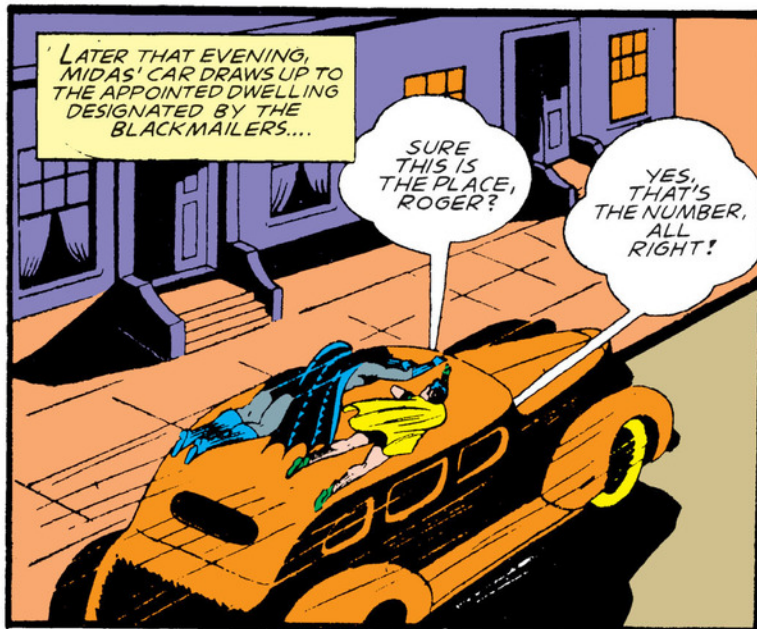
THE SAME JOB WE DID FOR YA ONCE BEFORE, EH?

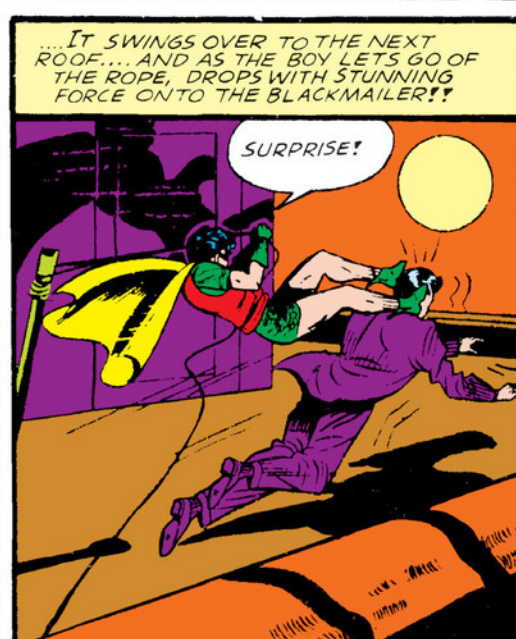
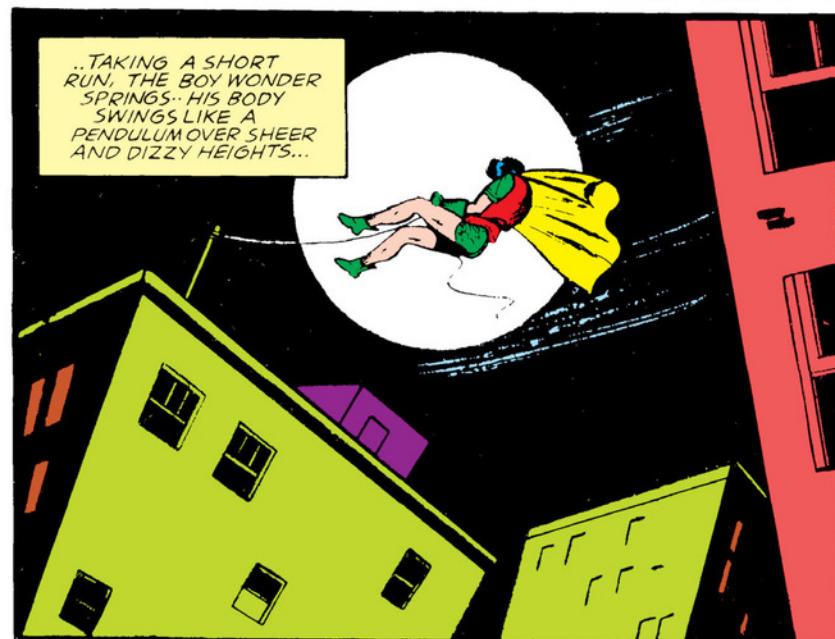
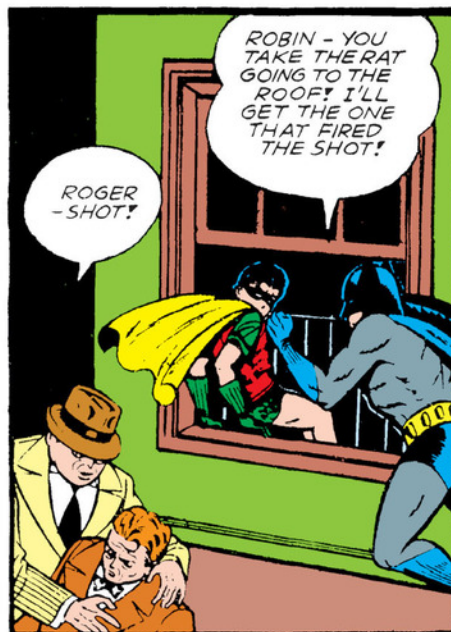
YES! I WILL LEAVE THE SIDE DOOR OPEN. WHEN YOU ENTER I WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE FAMILY JEWEL SAFE IS!

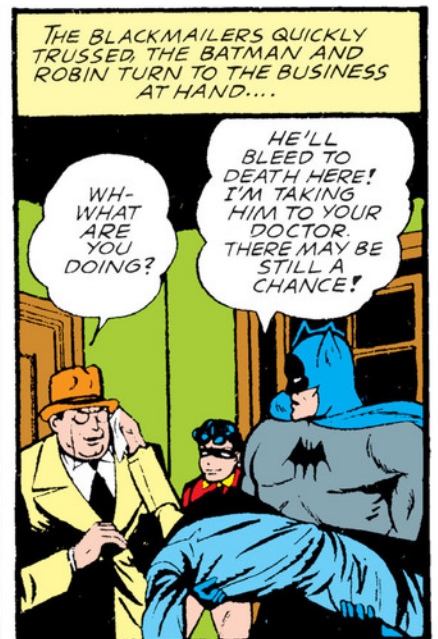
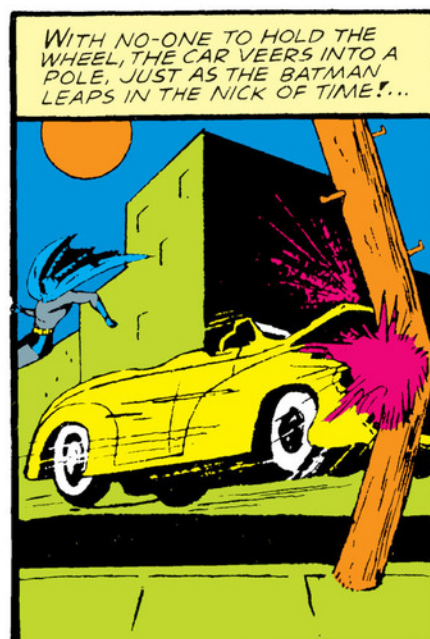
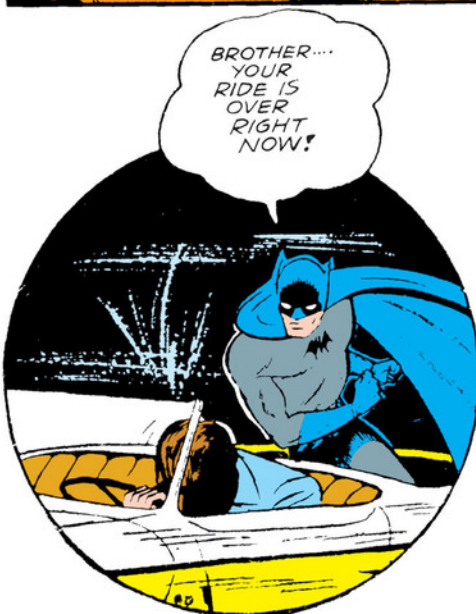
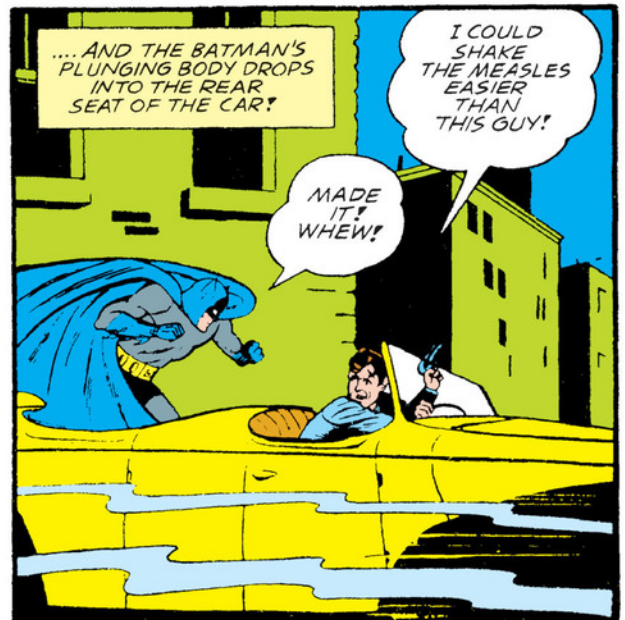
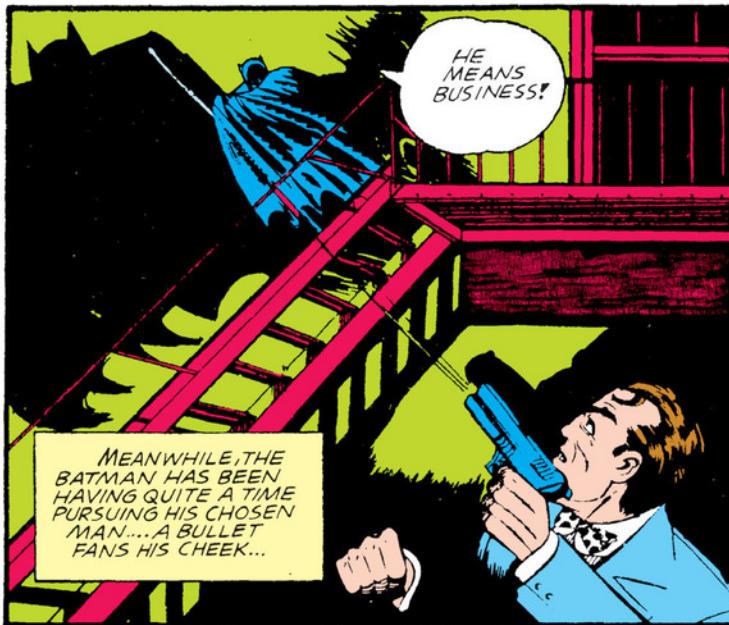
PRETTY SMOOTH.WE SPLIT FIFTY-FIFTY AND THE FAMILY DOESN'T EVER KNOW YOU'RE IN ON THE JOB! SMOOTH!

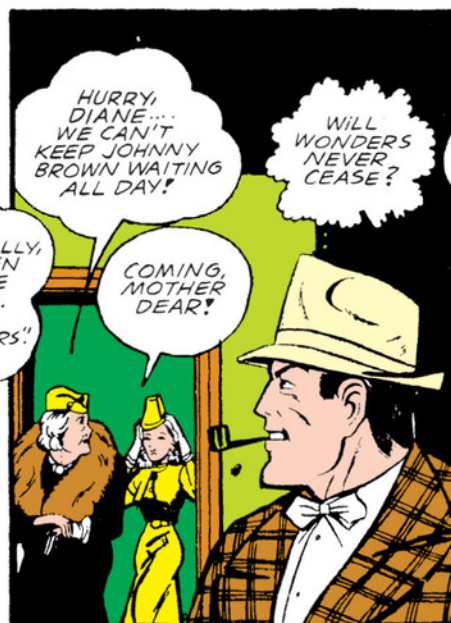
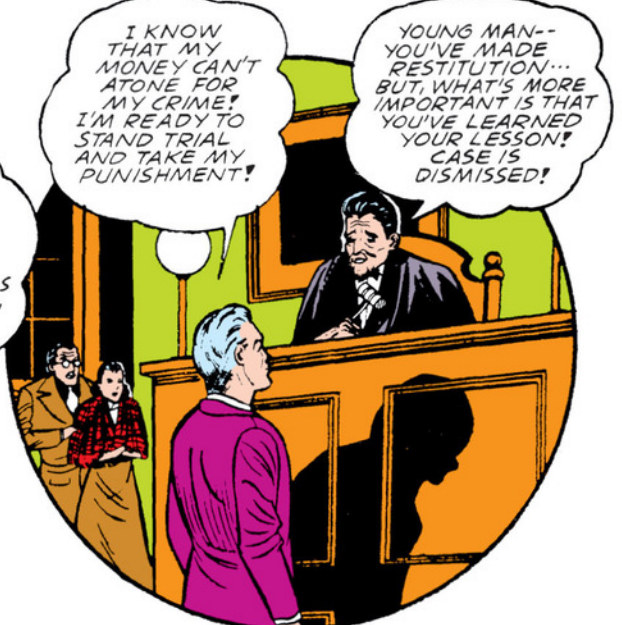
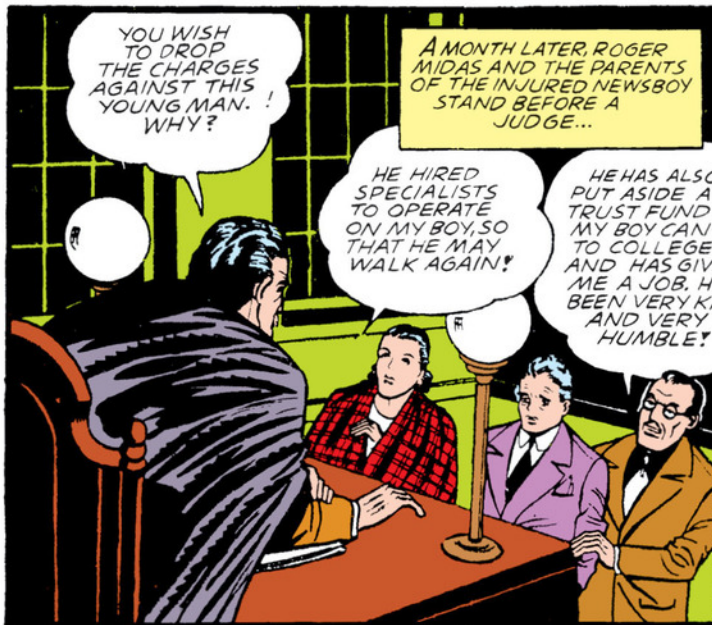
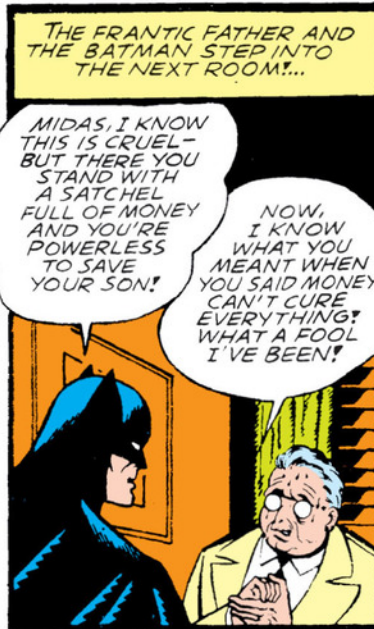
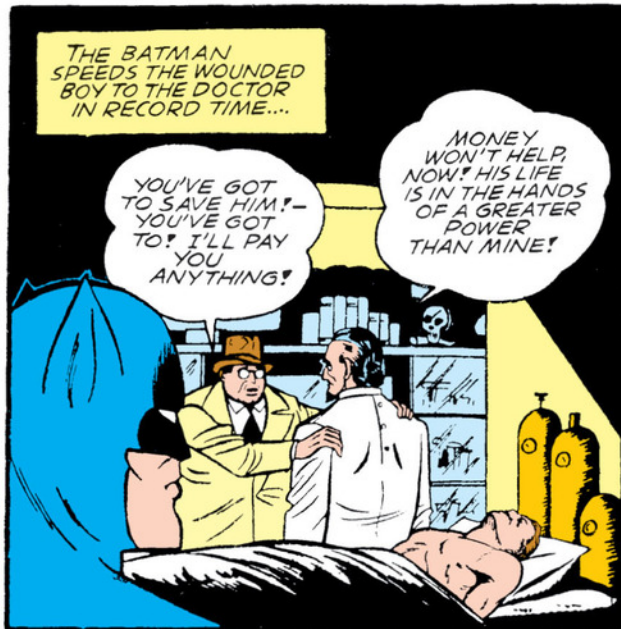








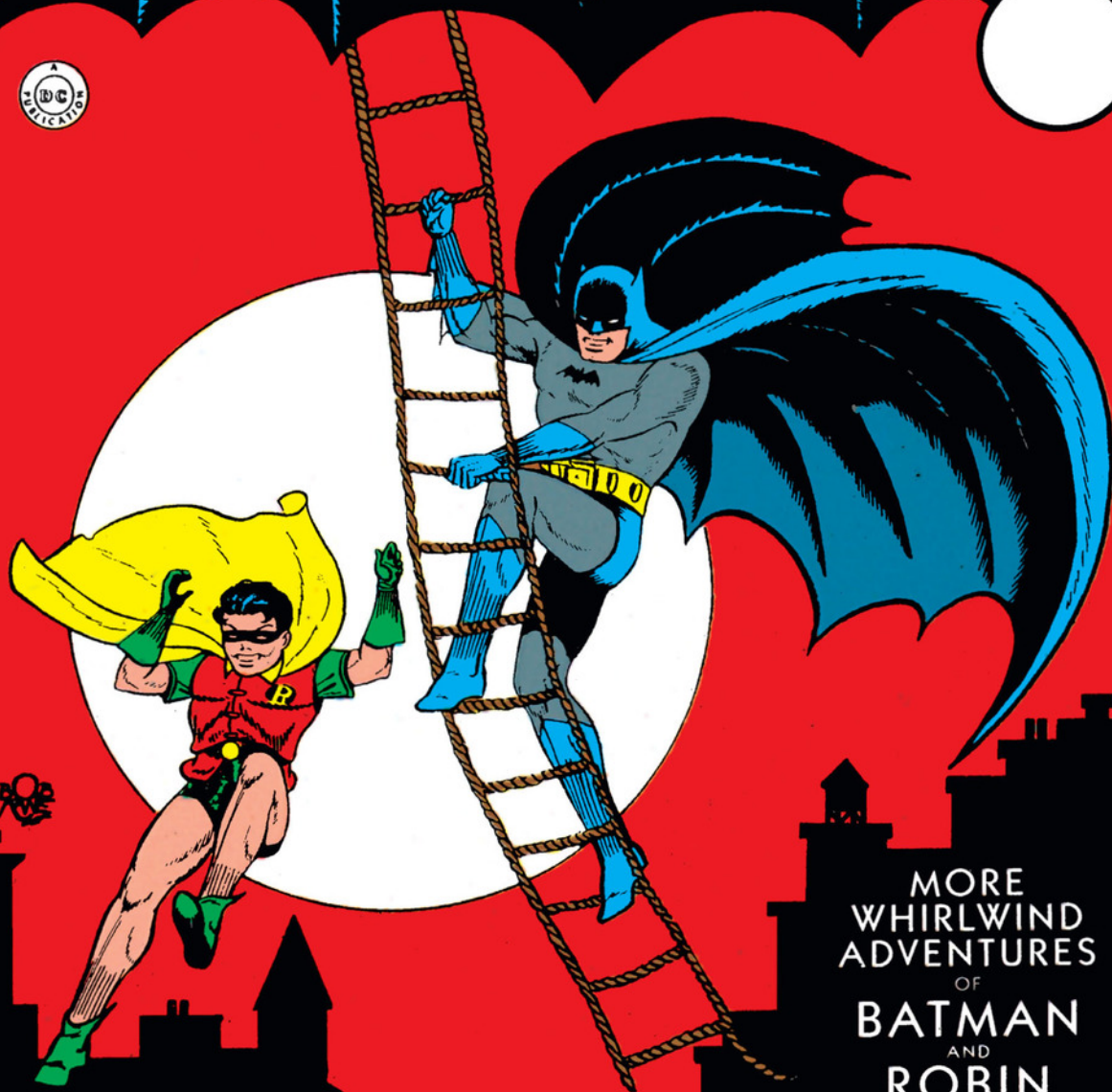




No. 4

WINTER ISSUE

BATMAN



MORE
WHIRLWIND
ADVENTURES
OF
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN



BATMAN

With

Robin
THE
BOY WONDER

BY

BOB
KANE

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN
AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING
ADVENTURE TEAM

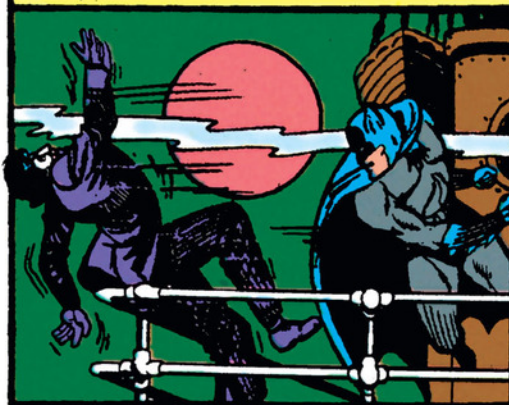
BATMAN

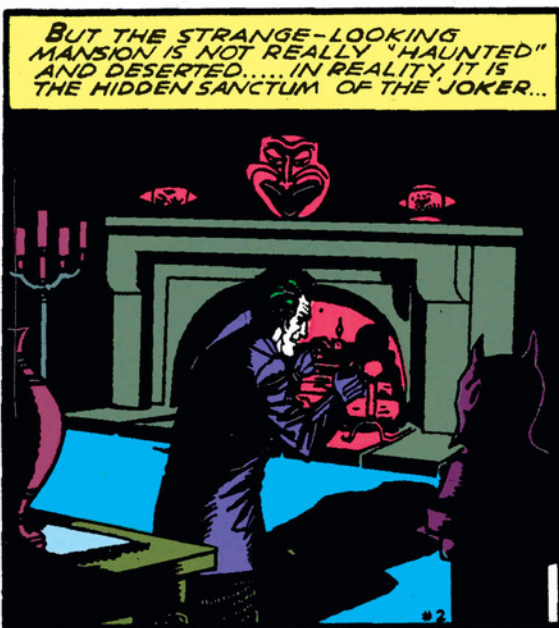
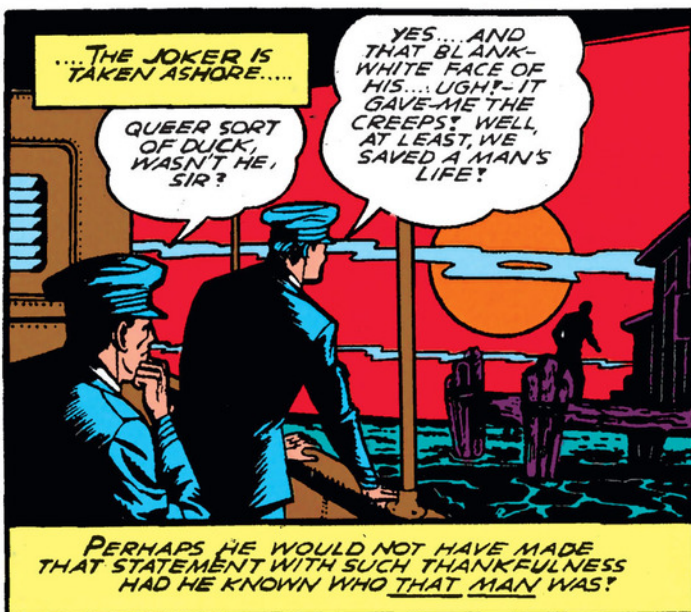
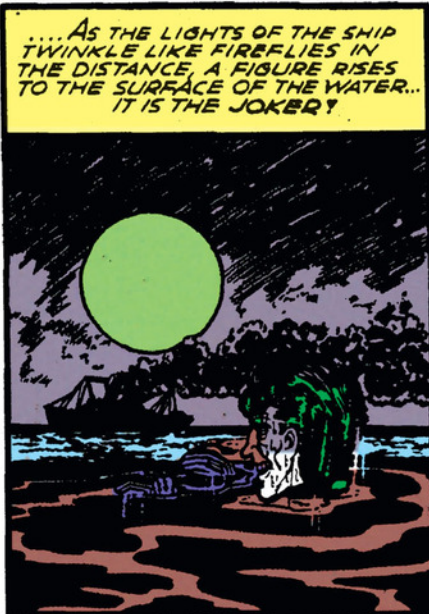
WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

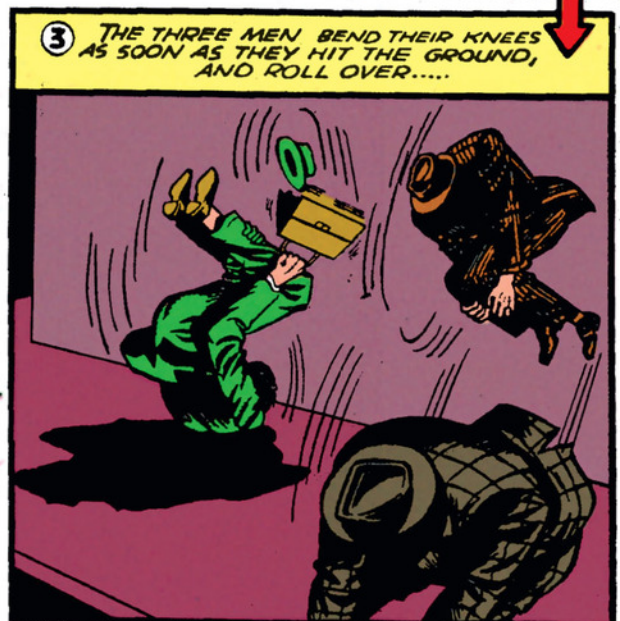
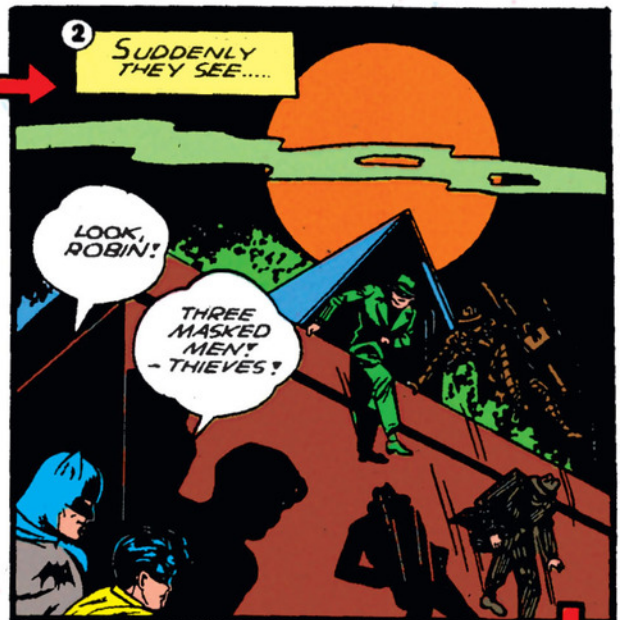


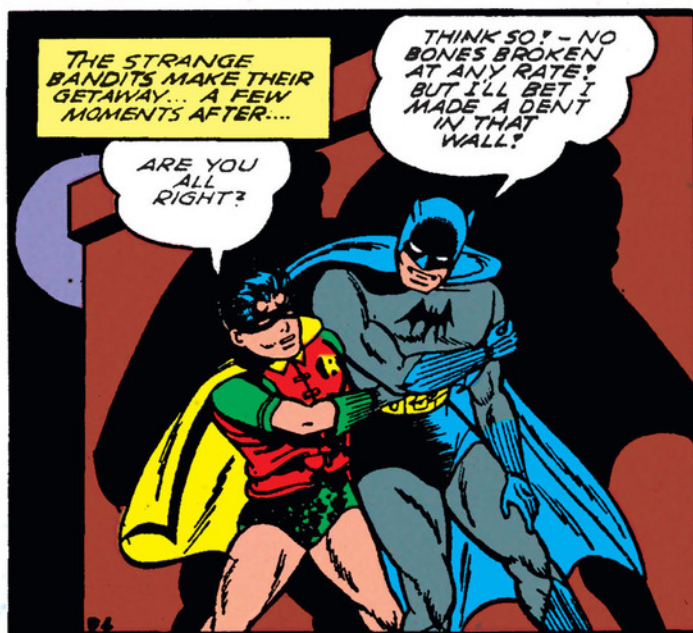
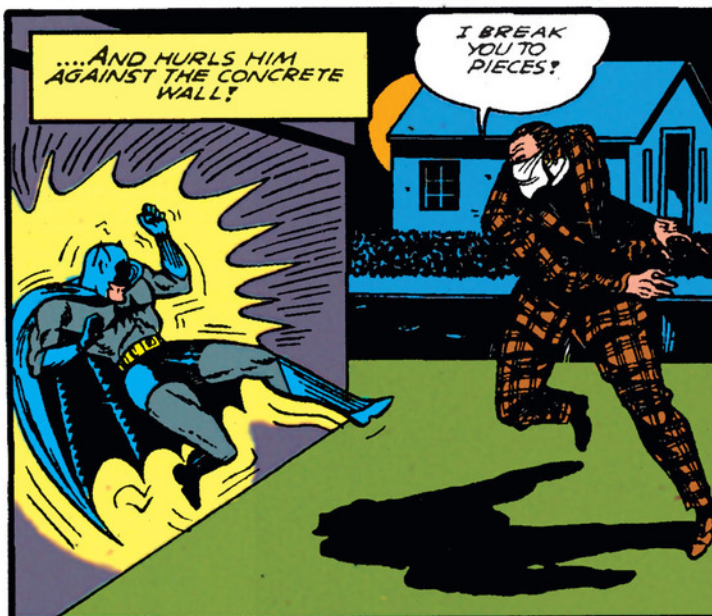
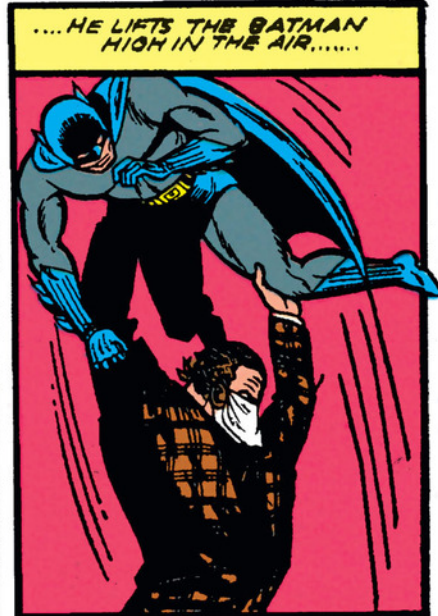
JUST AS THE BATMAN HAD EARNED HIS NAME FROM HIS GAD, SO DID ANOTHER FIGURE GAIN HIS.... A FIGURE SUGGESTING A GHASTLY, DELIBERATE MOCKERY, LIKE DEATH TAUNTING LIFE... YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW WHO THIS GAWY JESTER IS.... IT IS THAT KILLER-CLOWN, THAT MIRTHFUL MENACE KNOWN AS... THE JOKER! AND FATE-UNPREDICTABLE FATE- WOULD SOON PUT THE BATMAN AND HIS YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ON A CHANCE TRAIL THAT WOULD CROSS THAT OF THE JOKER, AND START THE STRANGE MEDLEY OF EVENTS THAT MAKE FOR THE STORY CALLED..... THE CASE OF THE JOKER'S CRIME CIRCUS!

WHEN LAST THE BATMAN HAD CONFRONTED THE JOKER, HIS IRON FIST HAD SENT THE JOKER STAGGERING TO A SHIP'S RAILING.....

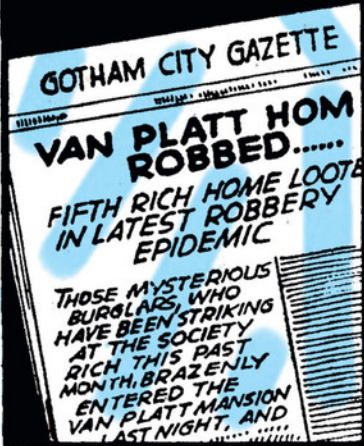




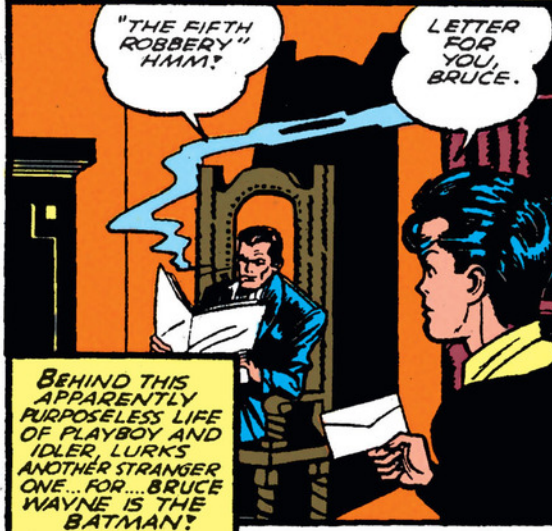




A WEEK LATER, ANOTHER RICH HOME IS ROBBED...

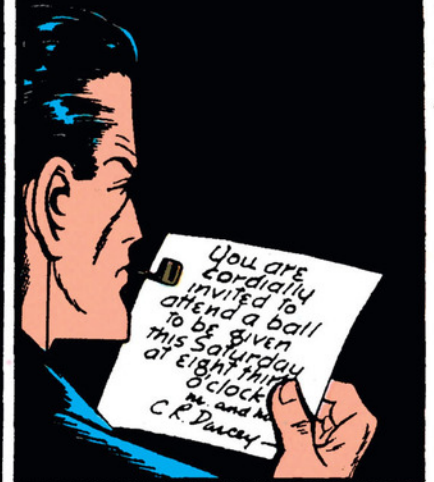


.....IN HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE WEALTHY SCION OF SOCIETY, SCANS THE NEWS WITH UNUSUAL INTEREST.....



BEHIND THIS APPARENTLY PURPOSELESS LIFE OF PLAYBOY AND IDLER, LURKS ANOTHER STRANGER ONE... FOR... BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN!

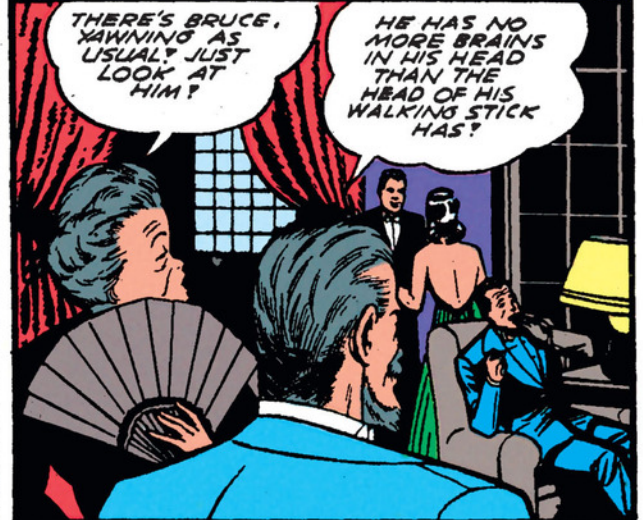
THE LETTER.....



ACCORDINGLY.....THAT SATURDAY NIGHT.....



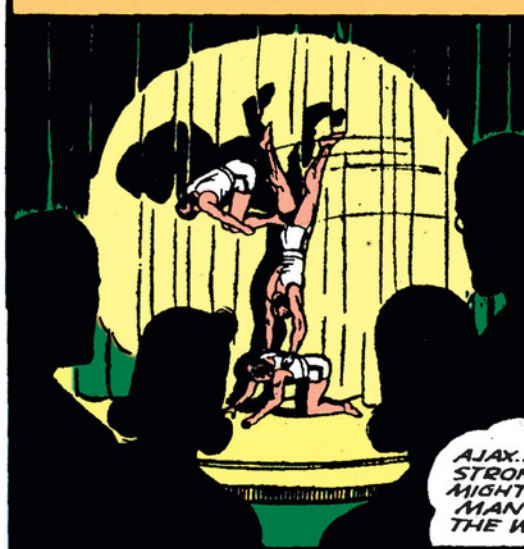
BRUCE SEEMS TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROVE HE IS THE NO. 1. CANDIDATE FOR THE "IDLE RICH, BORED WITH LIFE - CLUB"....



...SUDDENLY, THERE IS A ROLL ON THE DRUMS, AND DARCEY ADDRESSES HIS GUESTS..

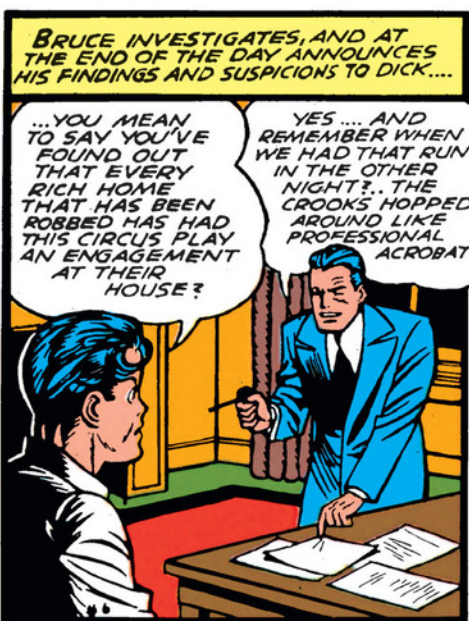
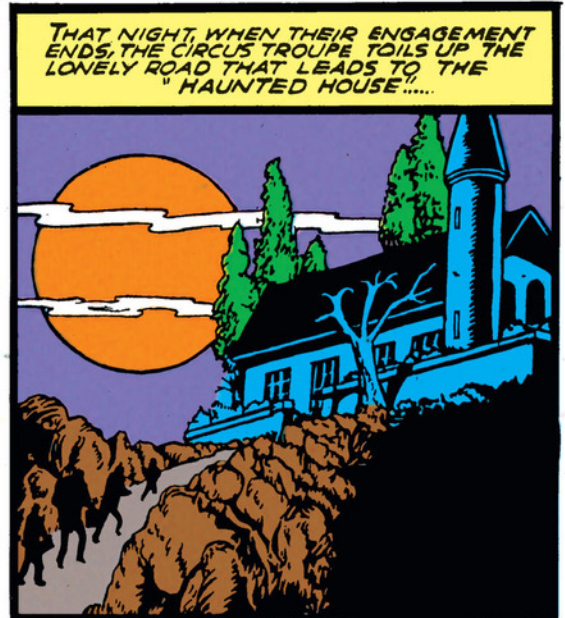
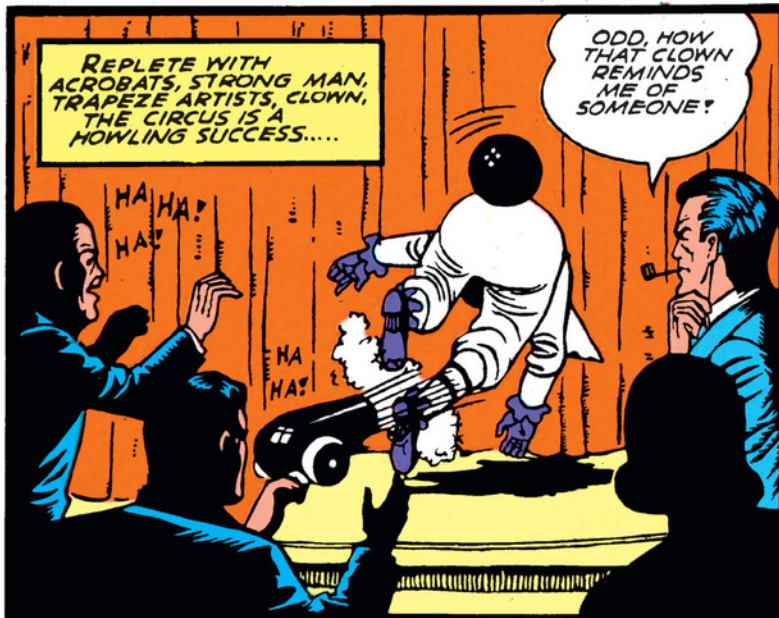


....A MINATURE CIRCUS SHOW IS PUT ON IN THE BALLROOM... A CROBATS PERFORM



A STRONG MAN BENDS IRON BARS AND LIFTS TREMENDOUS WEIGHTS...





THAT NIGHT.....IN THE "HAUNTED HOUSE".....
....THE LAIR OF THE JOKER.....

TONIGHT, WE PLAY THE MORGANBILT HOME. LOOK THE PLACE OVER. FIND OUT WHERE THEY HAVE THEIR SAFE HIDDEN. WORK FAST!

THIS IS TINO. HE HAS JUST JOINED UP WITH US. HE'LL BE OUR SURPRISE GUEST TONIGHT! NOW LET'S GO!

SO WAS THE STAGE SET, WITH THE BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE JOKER TO BE THE PRINCIPAL PLAYERS!

EVENING, AT THE MORGANBILT HOME.....THE JOKER'S CRIME CIRCUS HOLDS THE CENTER OF INTEREST.....

THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE STEPS FORWARD.....

.....AND NOW WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU. WE PRESENT....

RA TA TA-TA!

....AND AS IF ON CUE, THE DYNAMIC DUO LEAPS INTO THE ROOM.....

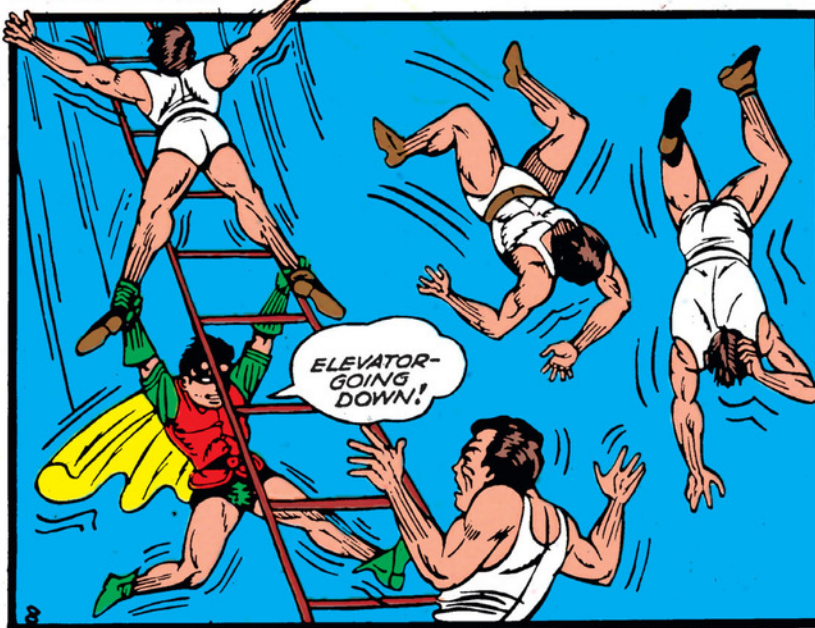
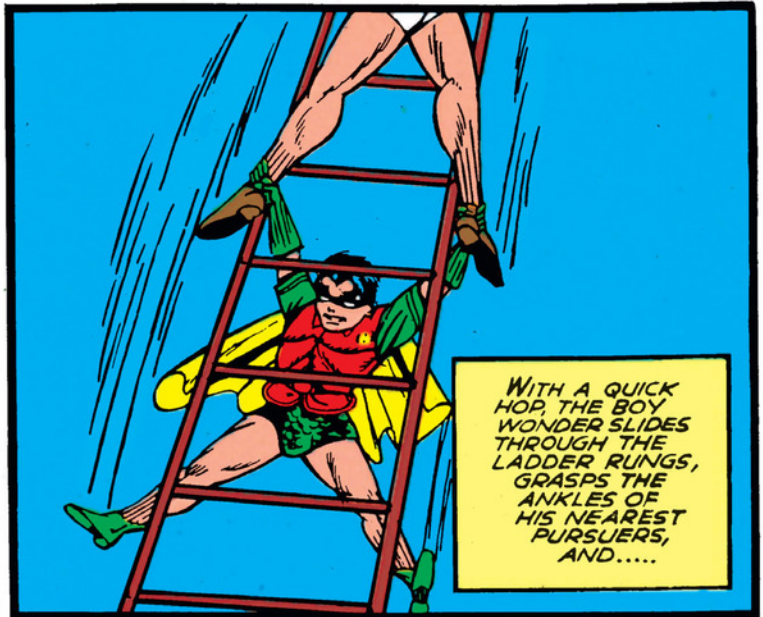
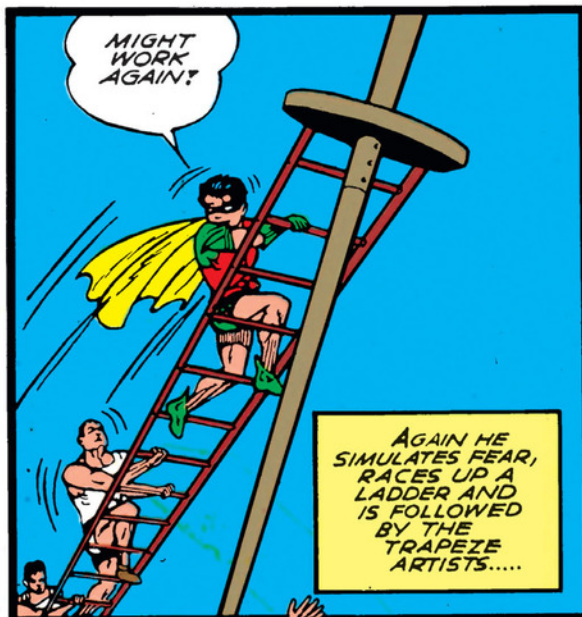
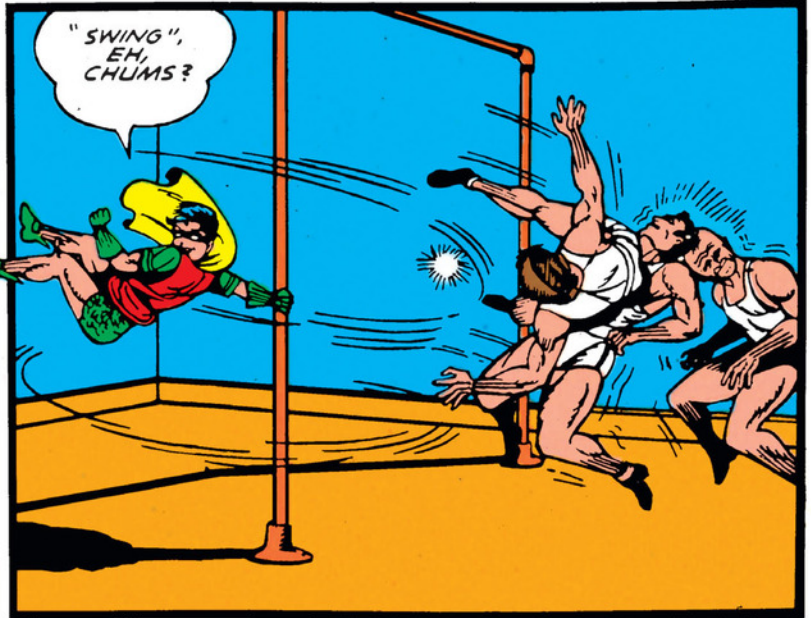
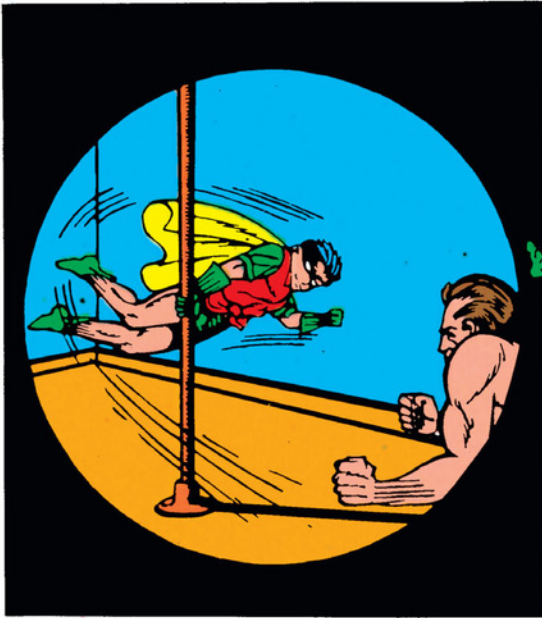
FANFARE, PLEASE!

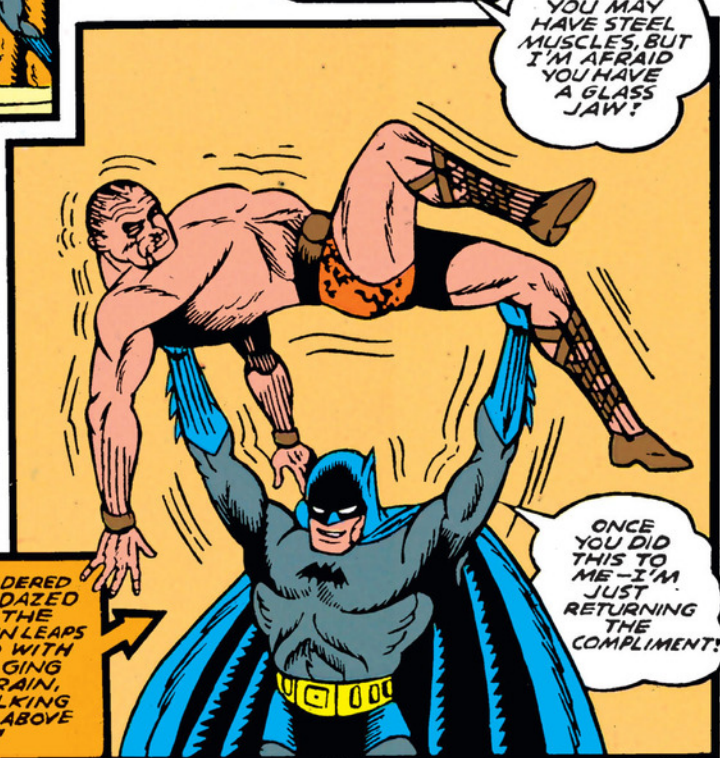
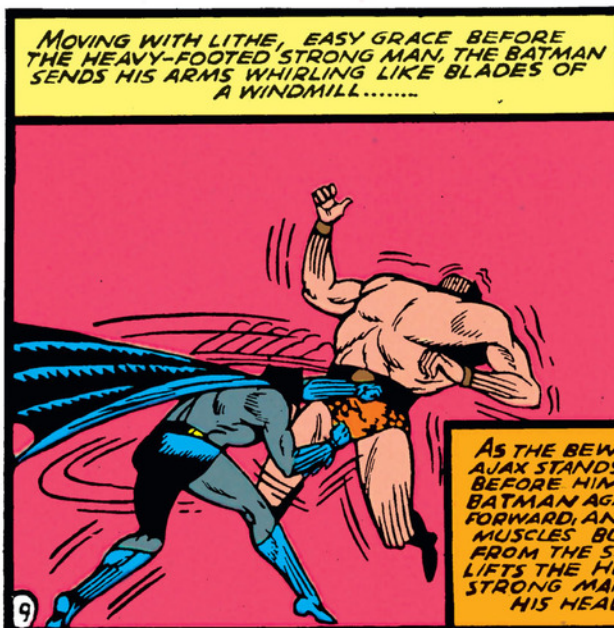
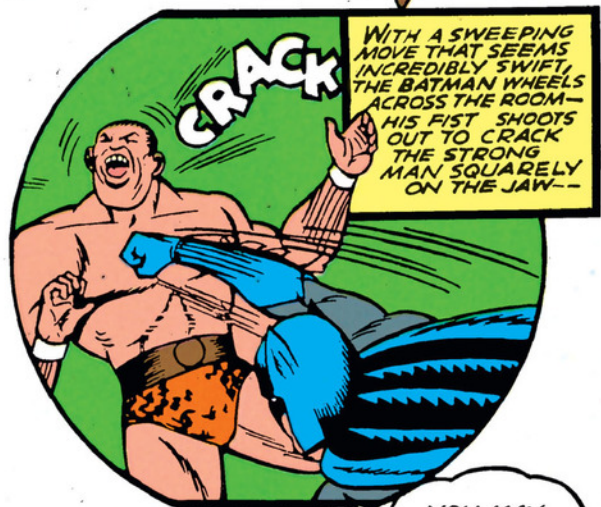
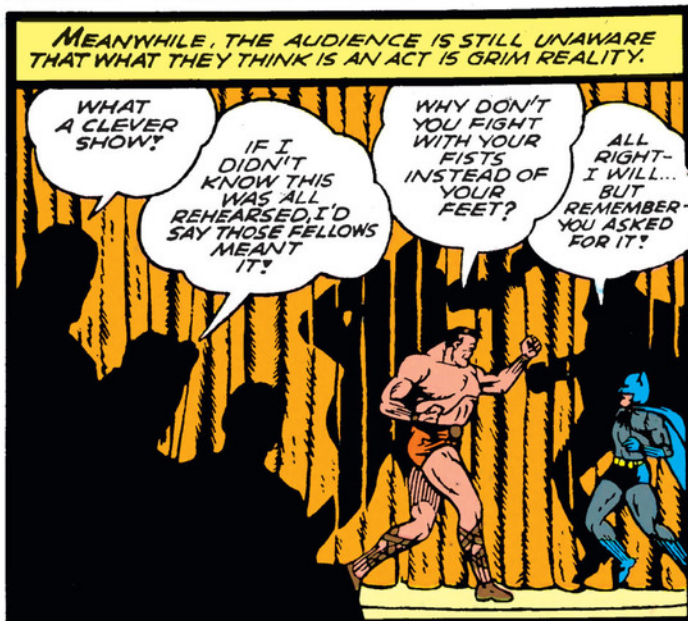
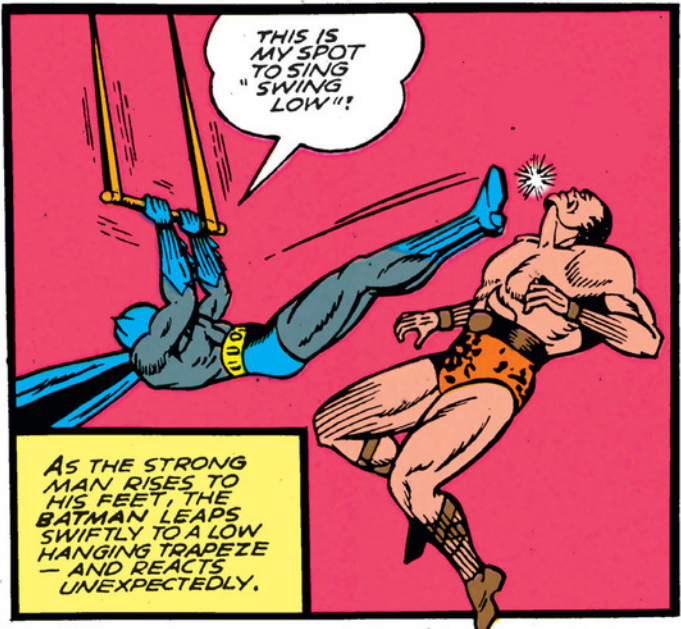
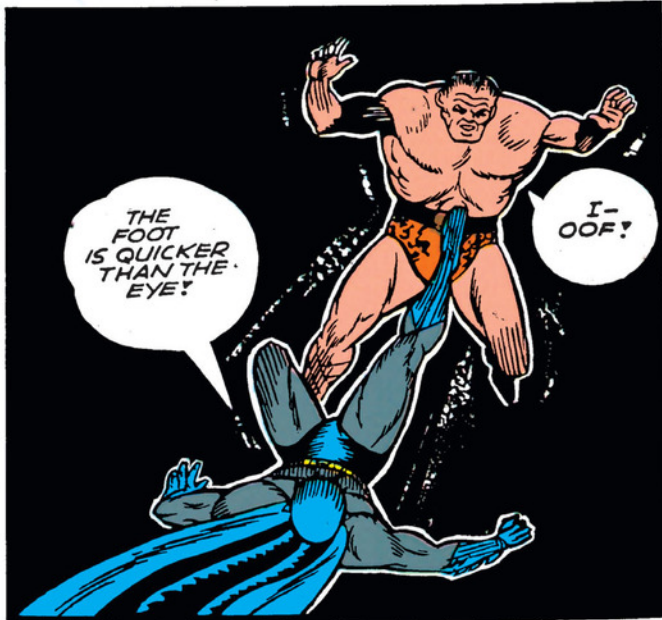
LOOK! THE BATMAN!

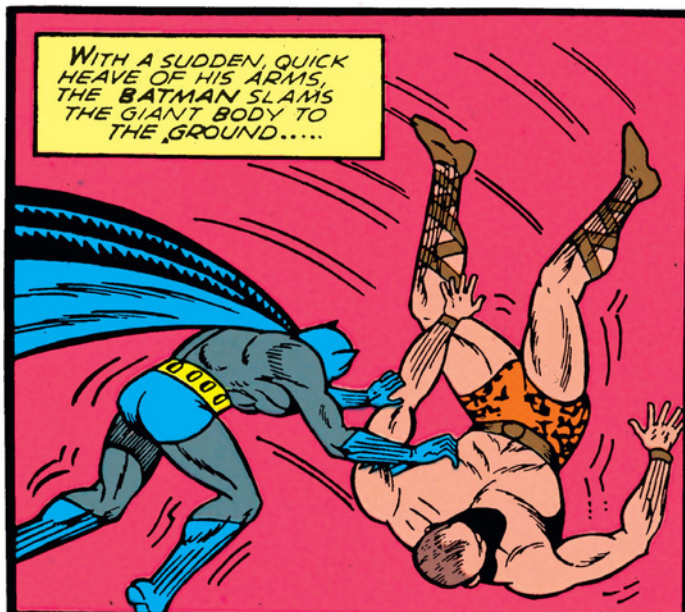
AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

LOOK! THEY'RE PUTTING ON AN ACT!

MAKING BELIEVE HE IS AFRAID, THE BOY WONDER RACES AWAY, FOLLOWED BY THE ACROBATS, AND....







WITH A SUDDEN, QUICK HEAVE OF HIS ARMS, THE BATMAN SLAMS THE GIANT BODY TO THE GROUND.....

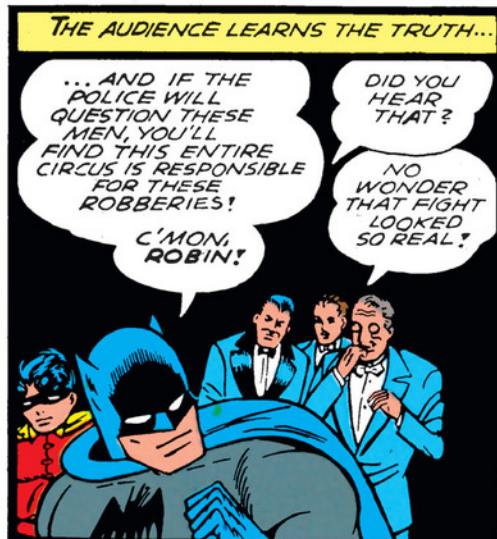
ONCE AGAIN, THE DARK KNIGHT HAS GIVEN PROOF OF THE OLD ADAGE..... BRUTE STRENGTH CANNOT AVAIL AGAINST A QUICK MIND AND A QUICK BODY.



...THE JOKER CHOOSES THAT MOMENT TO EFFECT HIS ESCAPE.....

LOOK? THAT CLOWN--HE'S GETTING AWAY!

THE CLOWN?-- NOW, I KNOW WHY HE REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE... HE'S THE JOKER-- ALIVE!



THE AUDIENCE LEARNS THE TRUTH...

... AND IF THE POLICE WILL QUESTION THESE MEN, YOU'LL FIND THIS ENTIRE CIRCUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE ROBBERIES!

C'MON, ROBIN!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

NO WONDER THAT FIGHT LOOKED SO REAL!



KEEPING THE JOKER'S CAR IN SIGHT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FOLLOW HIM TO HIS LAIR!.....

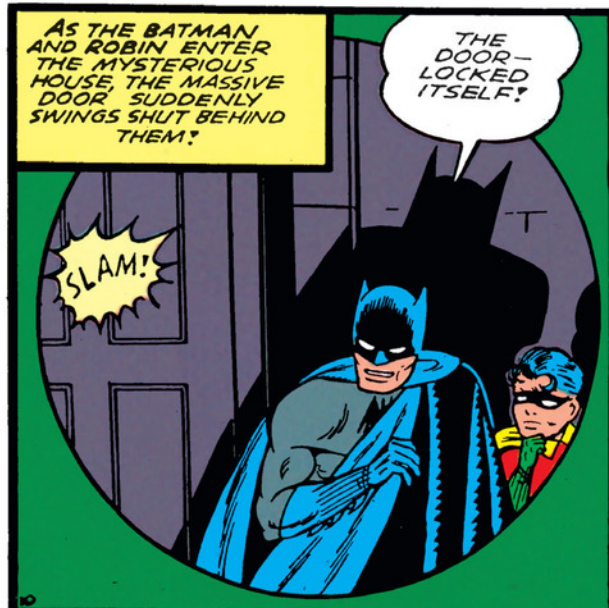
SO, THIS IS HIS HIDEOUT!

SAY-- THIS IS THE "HAUNTED HOUSE!"



AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DASH UP THE WINDING PATH, A FACE PEERS OUT AT THEM.....THE JOKER?

SO, THEY'RE COMING IN, ARE THEY? I'LL FIX THEM. I'LL SCARE THEM JUST AS I SCARE THE VILLAGERS WHEN THEY PRY INTO THIS HOUSE! HA HA HA!



AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ENTER THE MYSTERIOUS HOUSE, THE MASSIVE DOOR, SUDDENLY SWINGS SHUT BEHIND THEM?

THE DOOR-- LOCKED ITSELF!

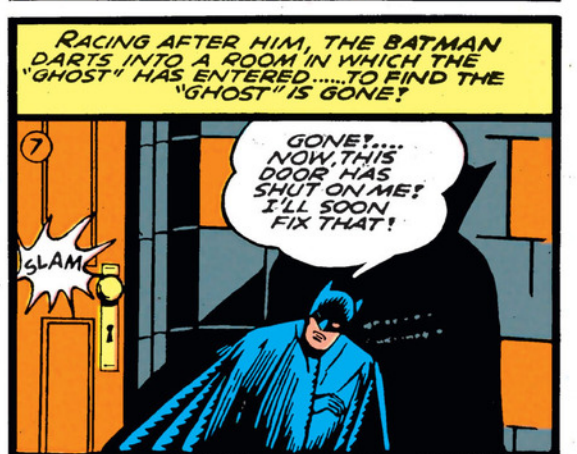
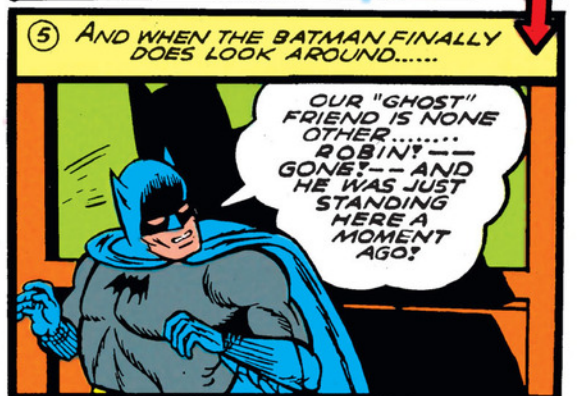
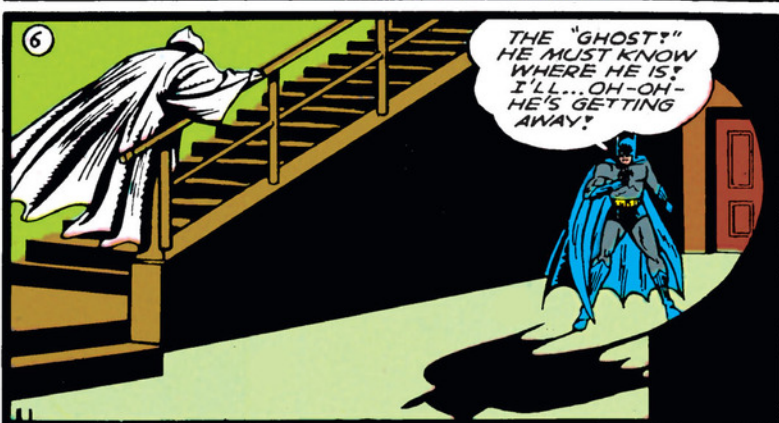
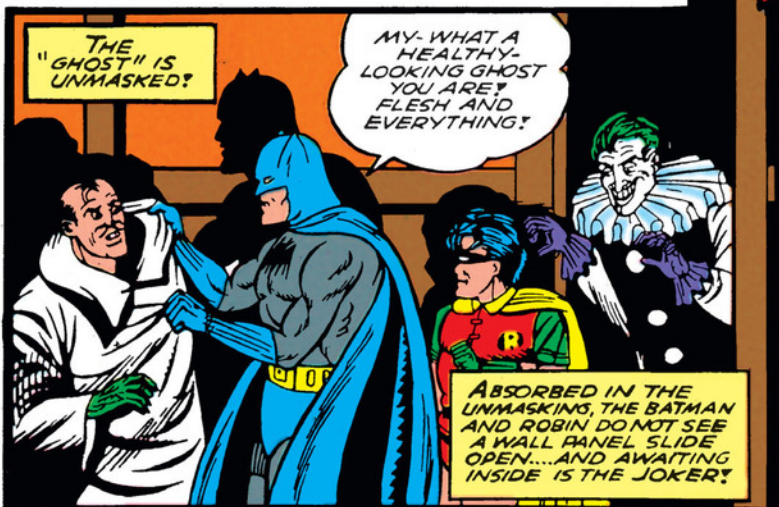
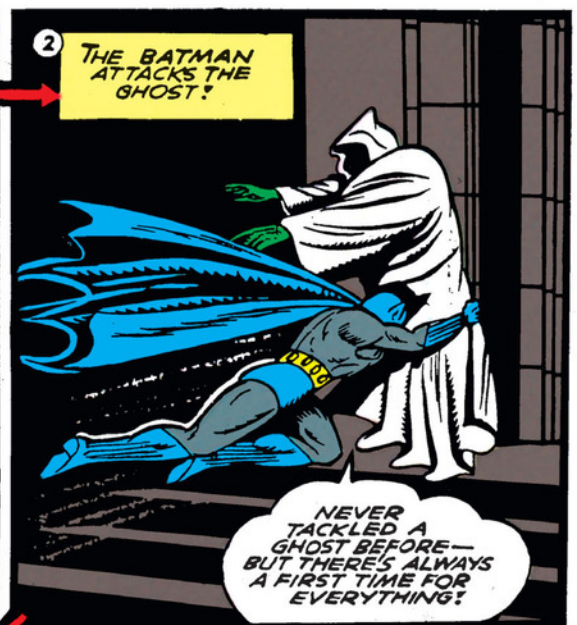
SLAM!



THE TWO MOUNT CREAKY, OLD STAIRS.....

PLEASANT LITTLE PLACE, ISN'T IT?

YES-- IT MAKES A LOVELY BREEDING GROUND FOR GHOSTS!



.....THE BATMAN SLAMS HIS POWERFUL FRAME AT THE DOOR AGAIN AND AGAIN..... BUT IT DOES NOT EVEN BUDGE?

THIS DOOR -IT MUST BE STEEL, PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE WOOD? IT WON'T GIVE AN INCH?

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS GO OUT AND A SMALL LUMINOUS FACE GLOWS IN THE DARKNESS.... A WHISPERED LAUGH FILTERS THROUGH THE ROOM.....

NOW WHAT?

HA HA HA

THE HEAD, HANGING DISEMBODIED IN THE DARKNESS, GROWS LARGER.... THE SNEERING LAUGH GROWS LOUDER.....

HA HA HA HA HA

JOKER!

LARGER, LARGER SWELLS THE EERIE, MISTY FACE, UNTIL IT SEEMS TO FILL THE VERY ROOM....THE MAD LAUGHTER GROWS LOUDER, LOUDER.....IT THUNDERS, POUNDS AT THE BATMAN'S EARDRUMS.....

HA HA HA HA HA

WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS THE BATMAN WHIRLS AND LEAPS AT THE WALL BEHIND HIM.....

HE TEARS DOWN AN OBJECT FASTENED TO THE WALL....

I THOUGHT SO..... A MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR THAT THREW THE IMAGE OF THE JOKER'S FACE ON THE WALL.... AND THERE MUST BE MICROPHONES HIDDEN ABOUT TO SEND OUT THAT LAUGH?

THEN, A VOICE.... A SINISTER, MOCKING VOICE.... THE VOICE OF THE JOKER?

QUITE RIGHT, BATMAN! AND NOW LISTEN, BATMAN- LISTEN FOR THE HISS OF GAS? IT MARKS YOUR END.... YOUR END?.... HA-HA-HA...

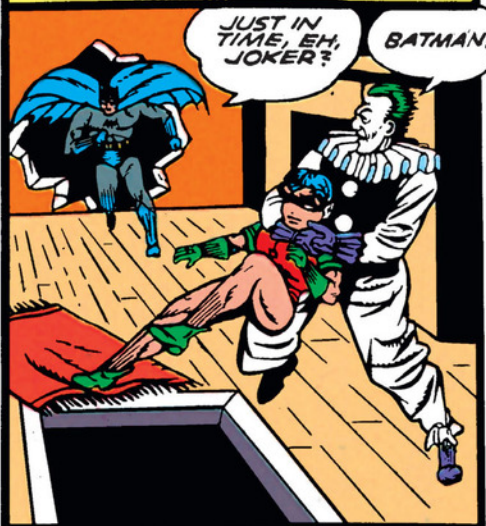
GAS? I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THE BATMAN TAKES TWO PARTICULAR VIALS FROM HIS UTILITY BELT....

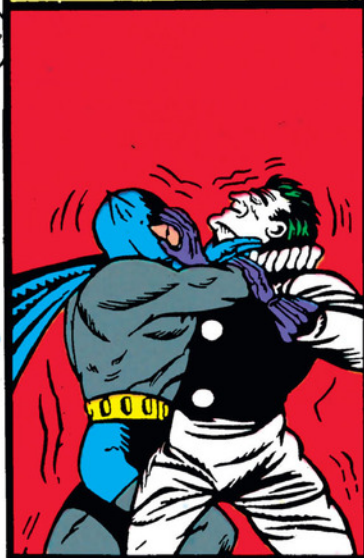
PLACING THE CONTENTS OF ONE VIAL INTO THE OTHER, HE THROWS THE PELLET AT THE WALL...THERE IS A SHATTERING BLAST!...



THE BATMAN DARTS THROUGH THE RENT IN THE WALL TO SEE.....THE JOKER AND ROBIN?



CRIME-SMASHER AND ARCH-CRIMINAL MEET IN COMBAT?



I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DIE THIS TIME!

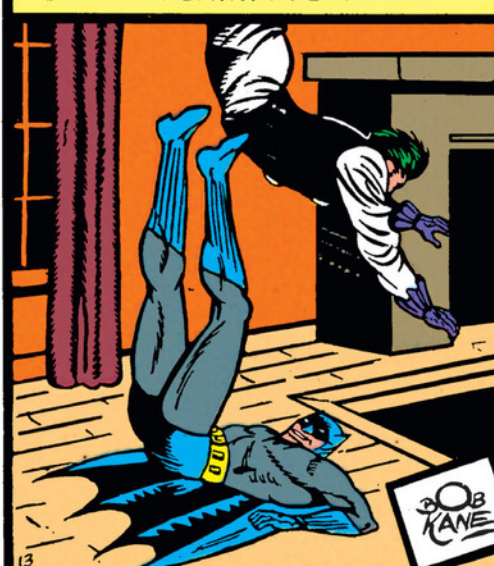


FIGHTING WITH MANIACAL FURY, THE JOKER UNLEASHES A BLOW THAT STUNS EVEN THE MIGHTY BATMAN....

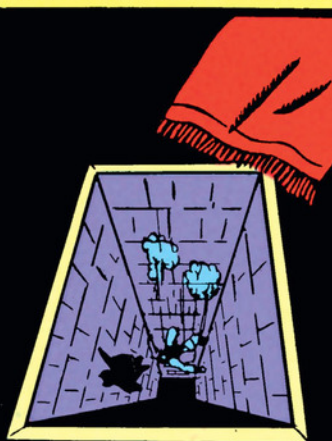
AS THE JOKER LEAPS FORWARD, THE BATMAN THRUSTS UP HIS FEET IN A LIGHTNING MOVE....



...THE JOKER IS SENT SAILING OVER THE BATMAN'S HEAD....

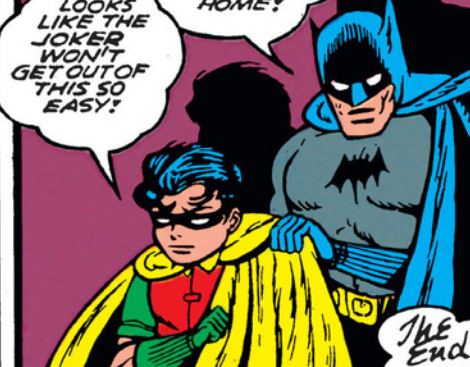


...AND DROPS INTO THE OPEN TRAP-DOOR..... DOWN... DOWN GOES THE JOKER, TO PLUNGE DEEP INTO THE SEWAGE WATERS RUNNING BENEATH THE MANSION!



PERHAPS... PERHAPS... BUT HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE A WAY OF CHEATING DEATH! WELL...IT'S ALL OVER ANYWAY. LET'S GO HOME!

LOOKS LIKE THE JOKER WON'T GET OUT OF THIS SO EASY!



IS THE JOKER ALIVE? IF THE PATH OF THE BATMAN AND THE JOKER CROSS AGAIN-WELL, THAT WILL BE ANOTHER STORY!

THE END

BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

THIS IS A STORY OF BOLD
PIRATES AND THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN. IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY....
BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE OF
THE PRESENT.... PIRATES ARE
OF THE PAST! YET HERE
IT IS - A STORY OF
FLASHING STEEL, SAVAGE
FIGHTING, SWASHBUCKLING
PIRATES, BUCCANEERS MET
BY THE THUNDERING
FISTS OF THE DYNAMIC
DUO.... HERE IT IS, ALL
CONTAINED IN THE
STRANGE TALE CALLED
"BLACKBEARD'S CREW
AND THE YACHT SOCIETY"



THE CLASH OF STEEL UPON STEEL IS
HEARD IN THE BRUCE WAYNE
HOME.....





SAY WHAT'S THE GOOD OF OUR KNOWING HOW TO FENCE? WE DON'T USE FOILS TO FIGHT WITH TODAY!

TRUE, BUT FENCING TEACHES YOU QUICKNESS OF MOVEMENT... AND BESIDES, IN OUR BUSINESS, IT HELPS TO KNOW THE USE OF ALL WEAPONS!

THE BUSINESS OF BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON?... FIGHTING CRIME? - FOR THEY ARE IN REALITY... THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

AT THAT MOMENT, EVENTS ARE SHAPING SO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN A DUEL... A DUEL OF JUSTICE AGAINST CRIME!



...ON A NEARBY PIER, PEOPLE BOARD A WAITING YACHT... A CERTAIN MR. HORN WITH HIS SECRETARY, STANLEY.....



A YOUNG, LOVELY GIRL, WITH HER TWO ARDENT ADMIRERS....

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK DOWN AND MARRY ME, ELAINE?

BOYS... HOW CAN I MARRY EITHER ONE OF YOU WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF YOU I LOVE THE MOST?

FORGET HIM - HOW ABOUT ME?



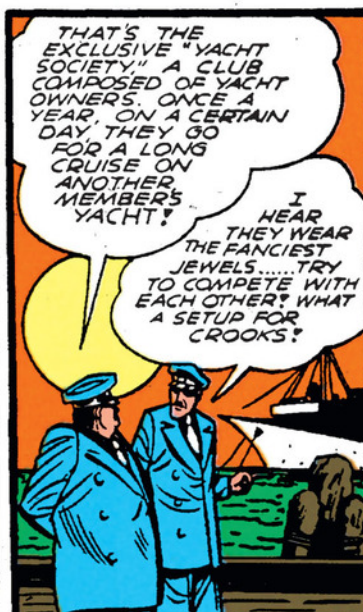
ALSO BOARDING THE YACHT IS A MR. COWDEN

THERE'S COWDEN! POOR CHAP WENT BANKRUPT! LOST EVERY CENT!

EVERYTHING I WORKED FOR - SWEEP AWAY OVERNIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO NOW? START ALL OVER AGAIN? NO - I'M BEATEN FOR GOOD!

LOOKS TIRED, DOESN'T HE?

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?... MINOR PLAYERS, CERTAINLY... BUT IT IS THE MINOR PLAYERS THAT MAKE UP THE CAST OF THE DRAMA OF LIFE... FOR THEY ARE LIFE!



THAT'S THE EXCLUSIVE "YACHT SOCIETY," A CLUB COMPOSED OF YACHT OWNERS. ONCE A YEAR, ON A CERTAIN DAY THEY GO FOR A LONG CRUISE ON ANOTHER MEMBER'S YACHT!

I HEAR THEY WEAR THE FANCIEST JEWELS... TRY TO COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER? WHAT A SETUP FOR CROOKS?

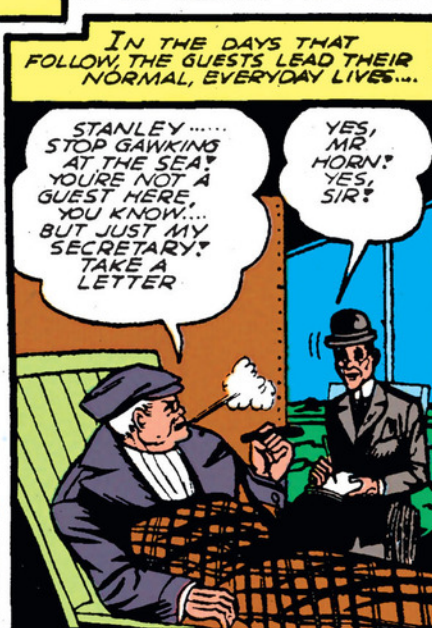


THEY'RE SAFE ENOUGH OUT AT SEA? ALL THEY HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR ARE BUCCANEERS, PIRATES, HAW HAW!

YEAH?... PIRATES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY? SHADES OF CAPTAIN KIDD? HAW HAW!



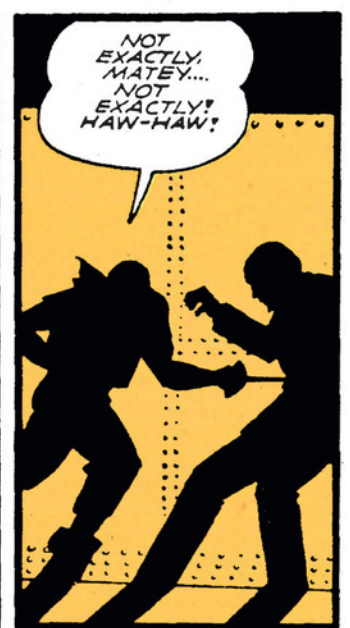
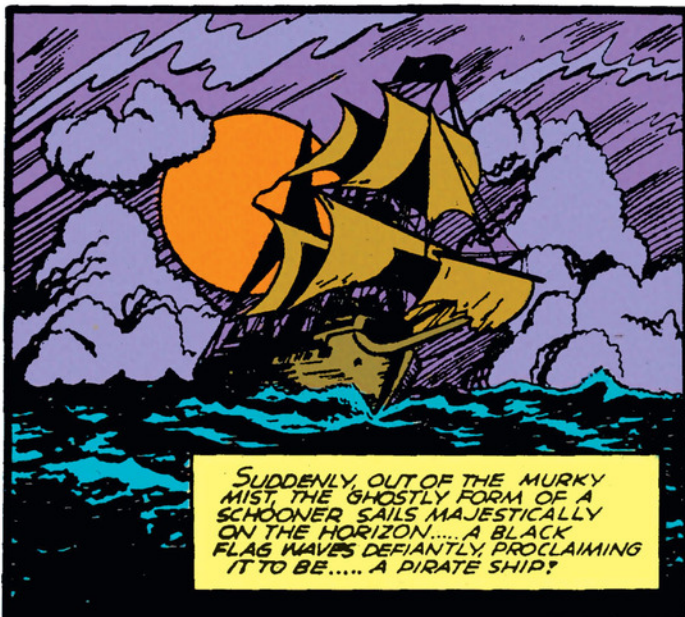
AS SOON AS THE LAST GUEST IS ABOARD, THE YACHT HEADS FOR THE HIGH SEAS... AND ONE OF THE STRANGEST OF MODERN ADVENTURES!

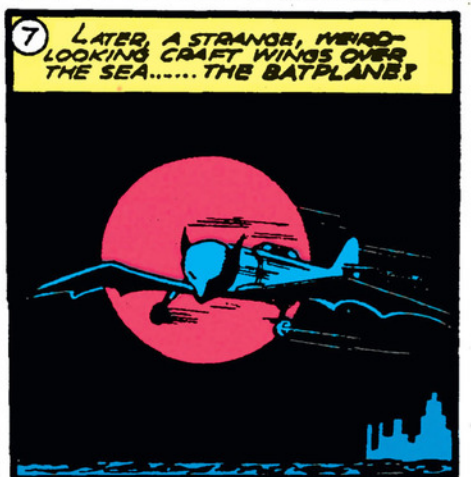
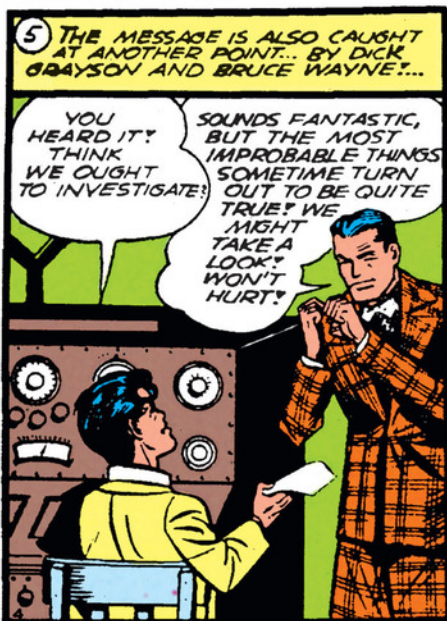
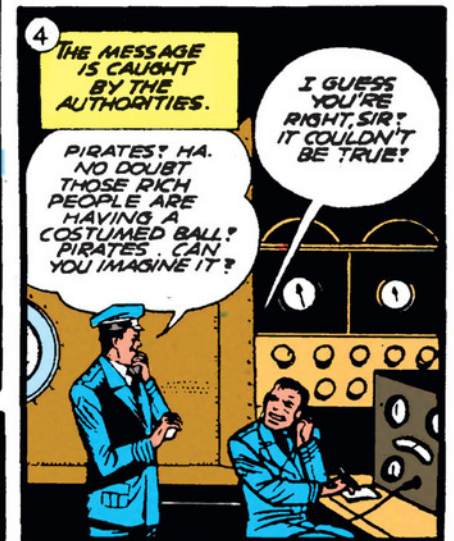
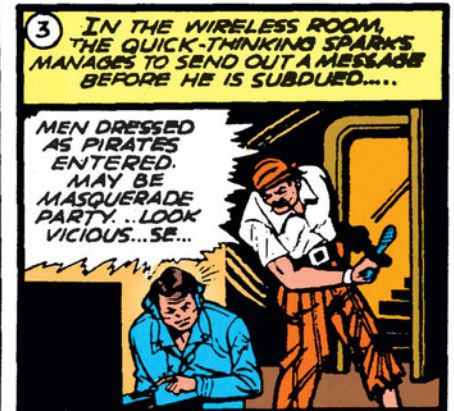


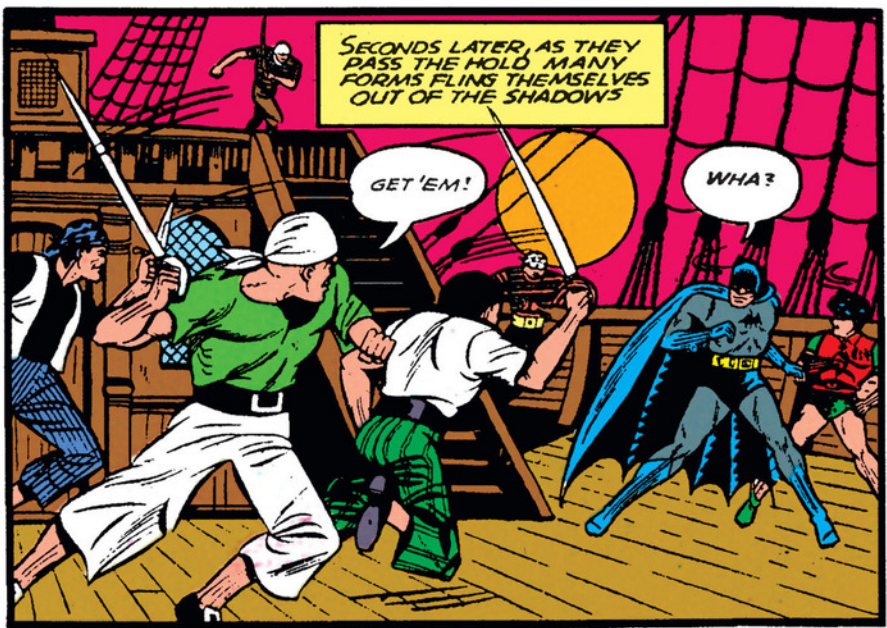
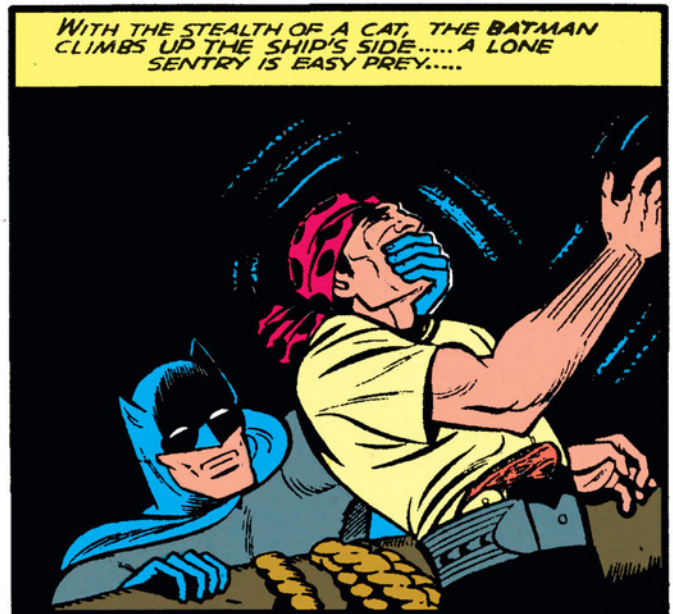
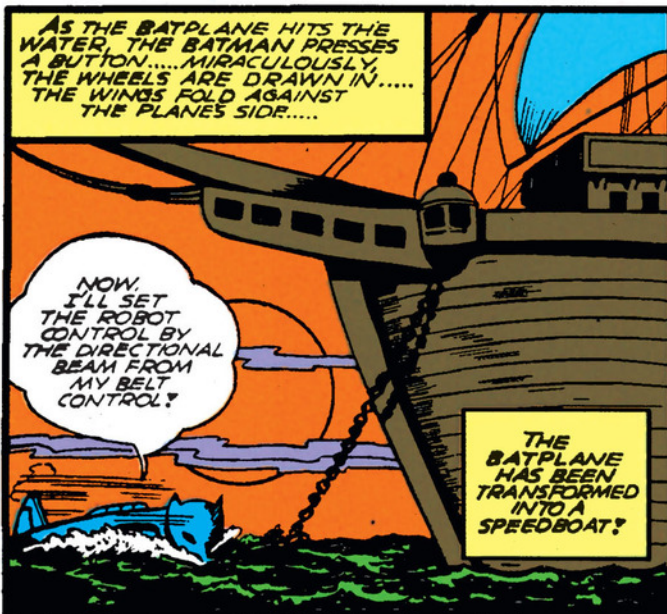
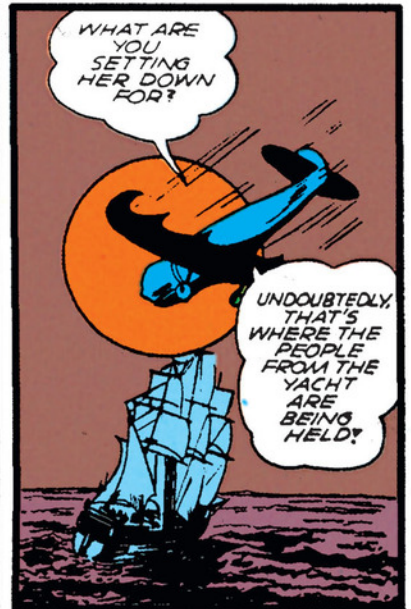
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE GUESTS LEAD THEIR NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIVES...

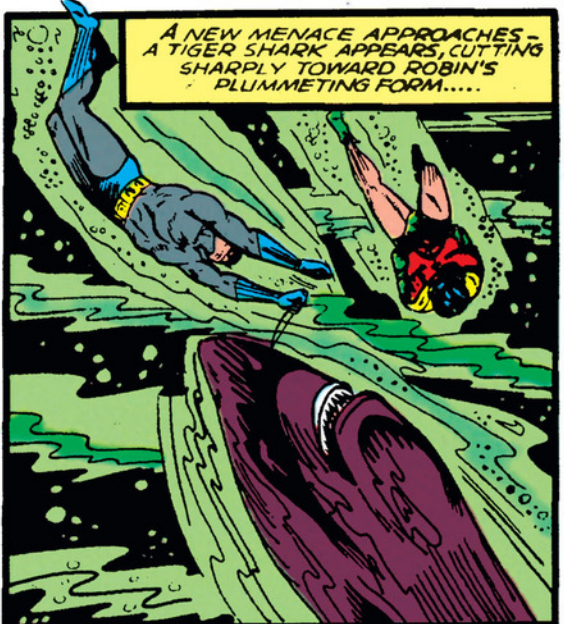
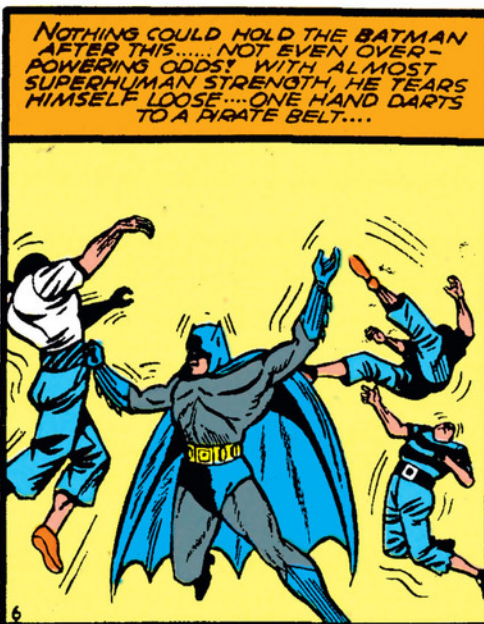
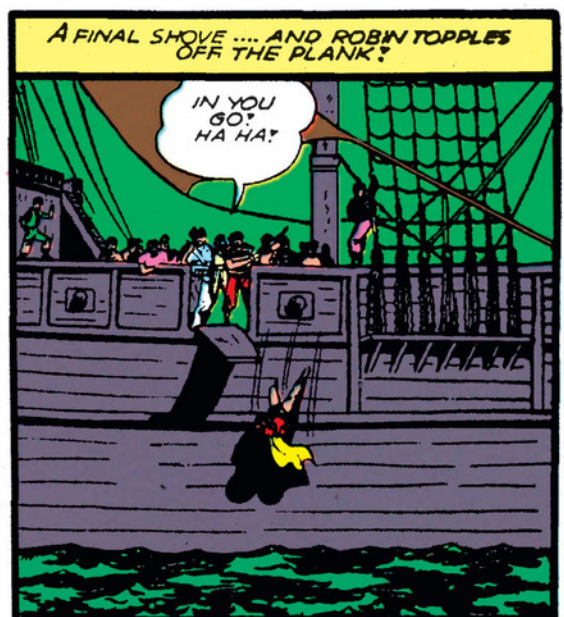
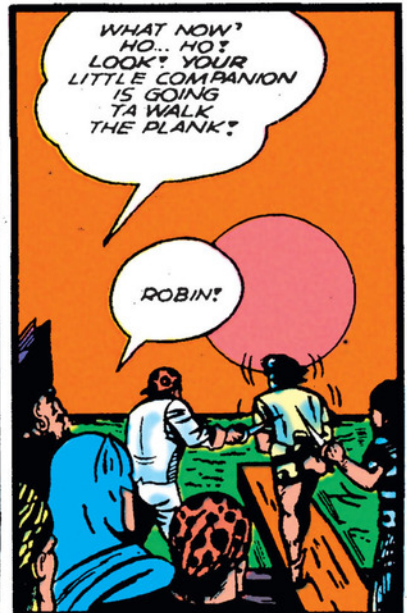
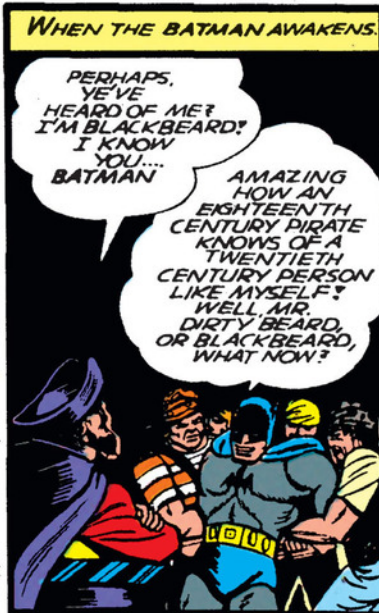
STANLEY... STOP GAWKING AT THE SEA? YOU'RE NOT A GUEST HERE, YOU KNOW... BUT JUST MY SECRETARY? TAKE A LETTER

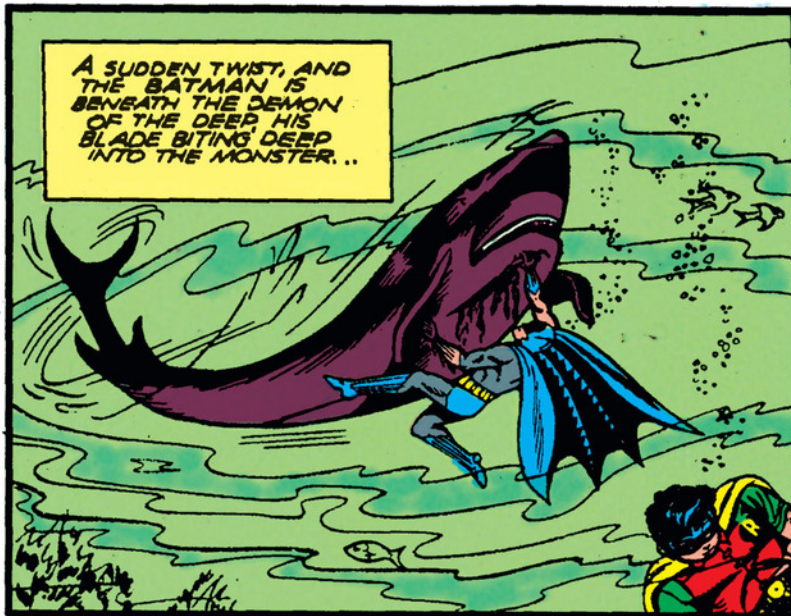
YES, MR. HORN? YES, SIR?

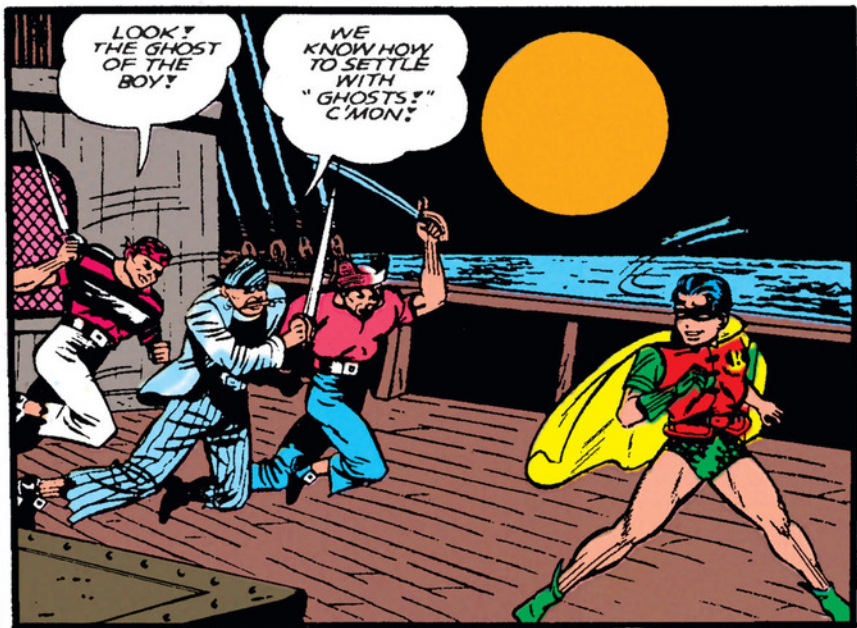
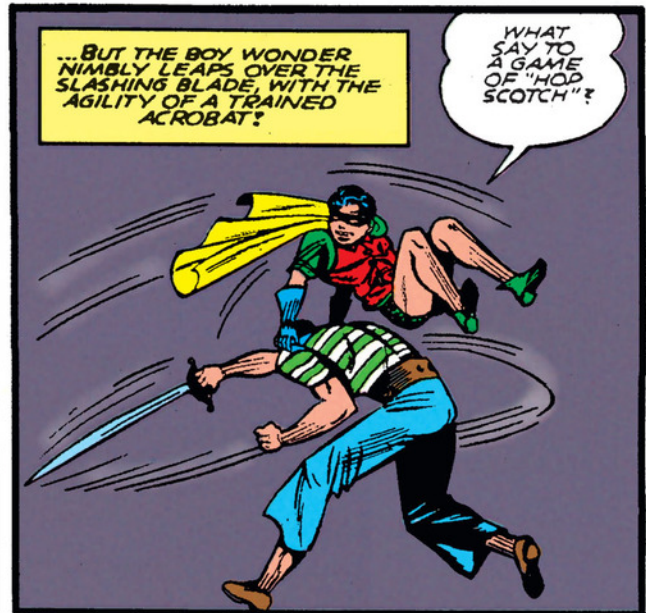


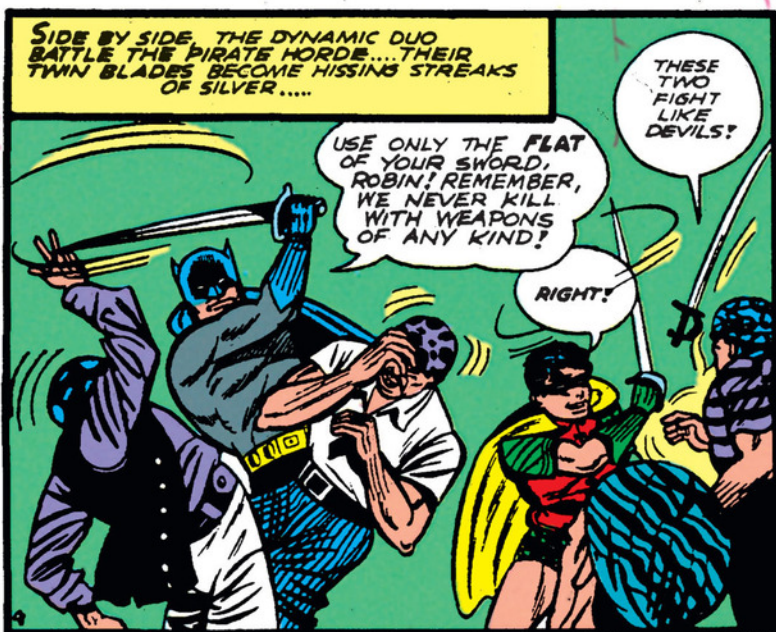
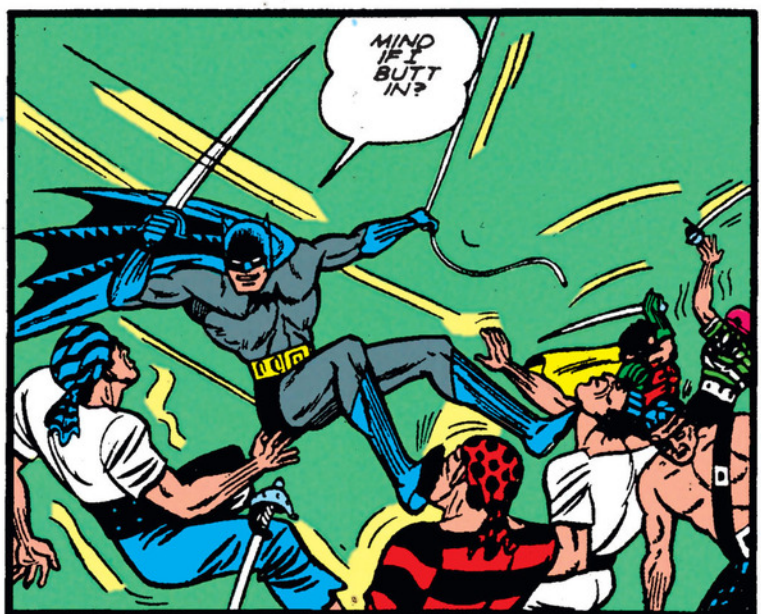
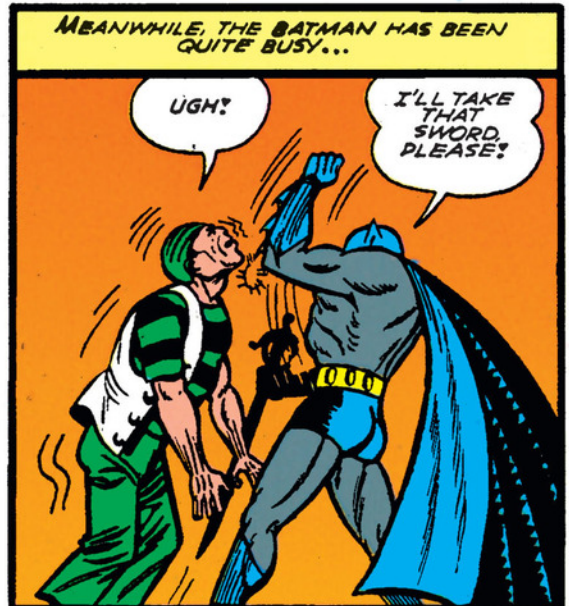
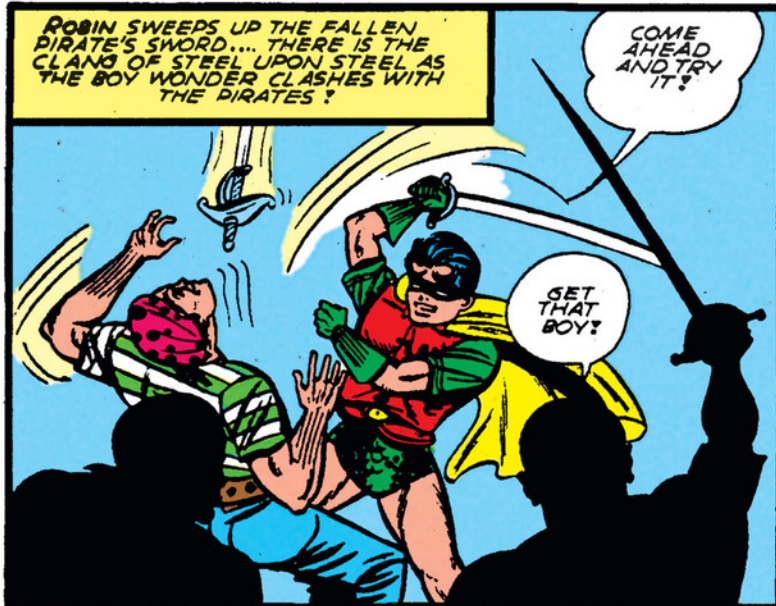


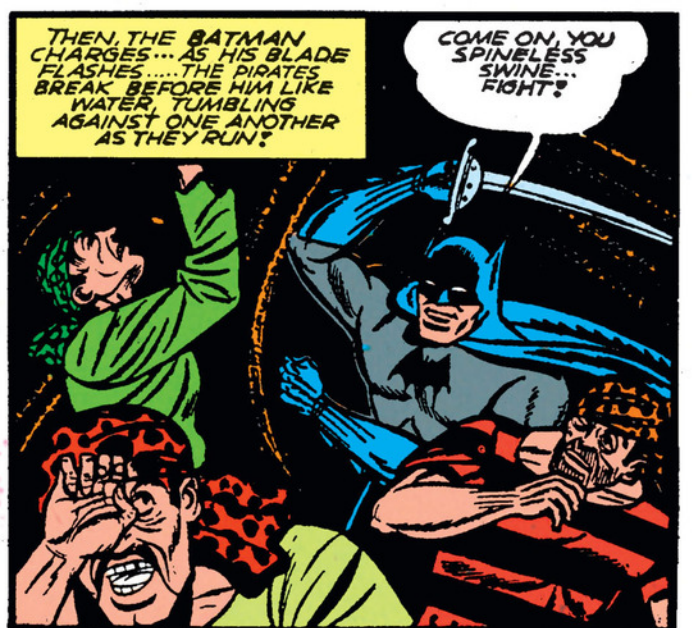
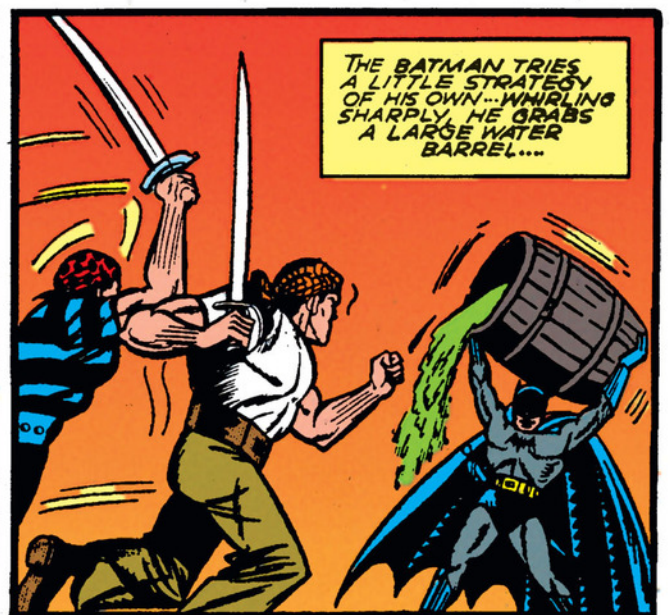
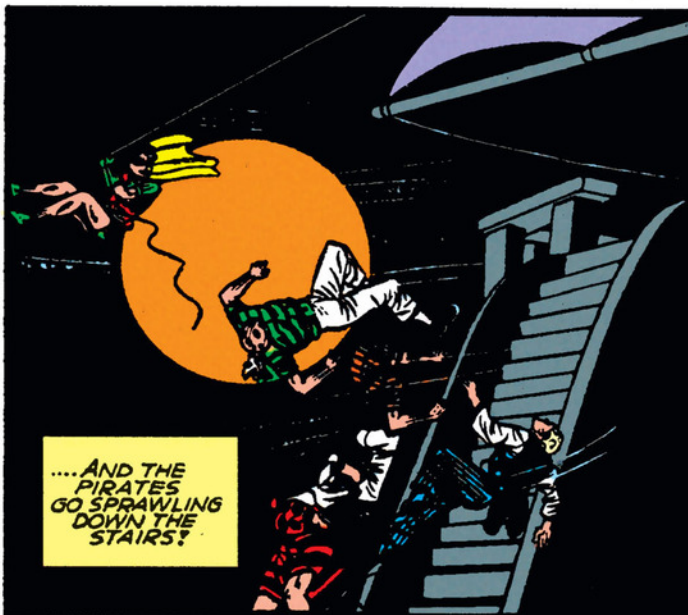
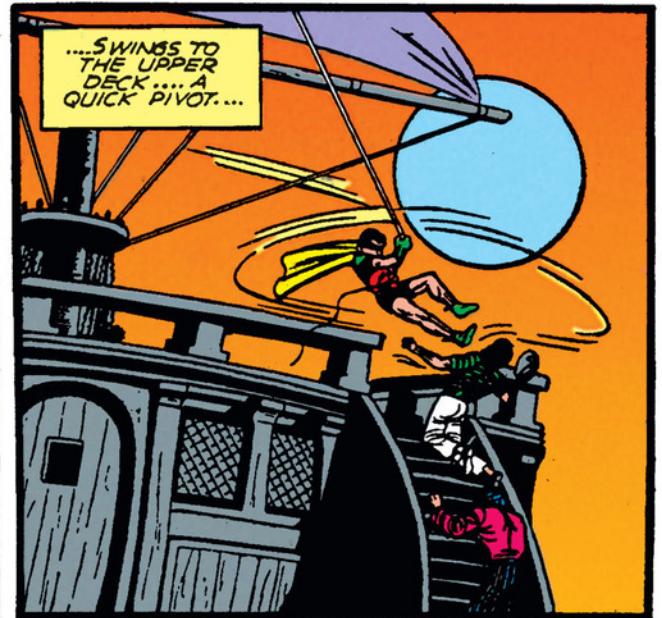


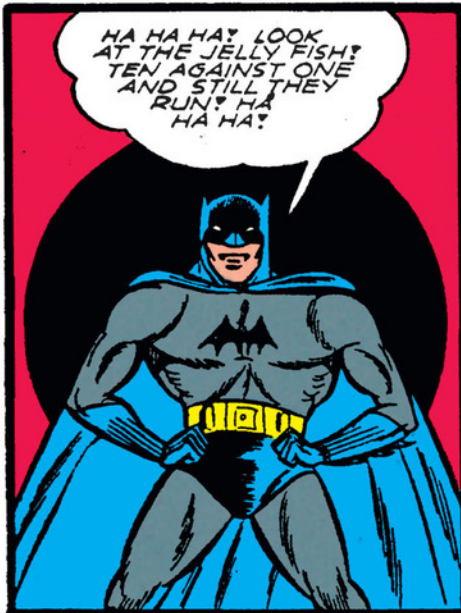




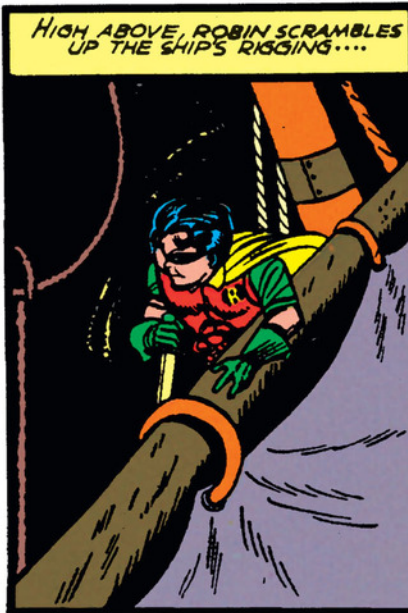








HA HA HA! LOOK AT THE JELLY FISH! TEN AGAINST ONE AND STILL THEY RUN! HA HA HA!



HIGH ABOVE, ROBIN SCRAMBLES UP THE SHIP'S RIGGING....

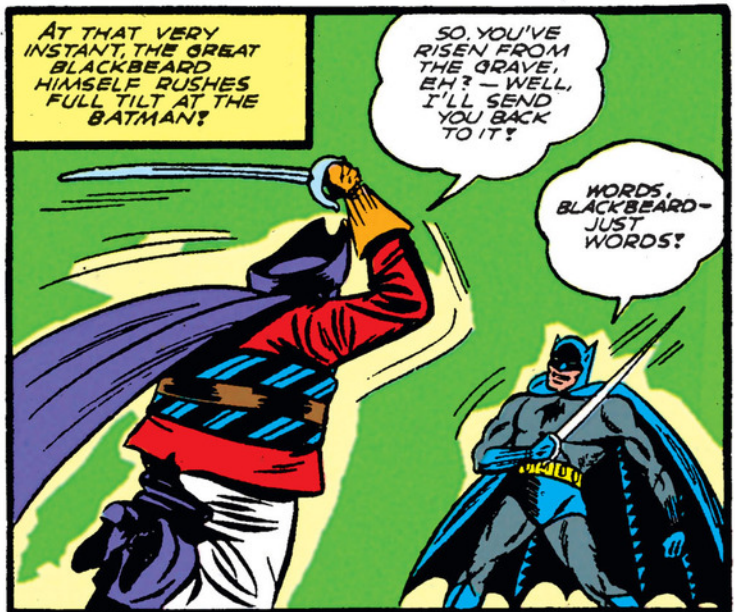


HIS KNIFE SLASHES AT THE RIGGING ROPES, AND THE SAILS DROP FROM THE MASTS IN GREAT WAVES.....

THE SAILS? THEY'RE FALLING!



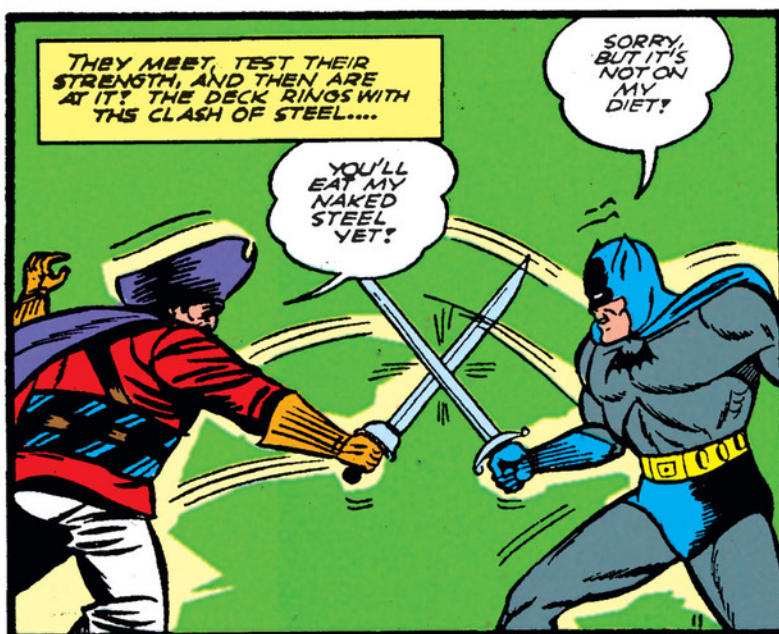
THE PIRATES ARE ENVELOPED BY THE HEAVY SAILS?



AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE GREAT BLACKBEARD HIMSELF RUSHES FULL TILT AT THE BATMAN!

SO, YOU'VE RISEN FROM THE GRAVE, EH? — WELL, I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO IT!

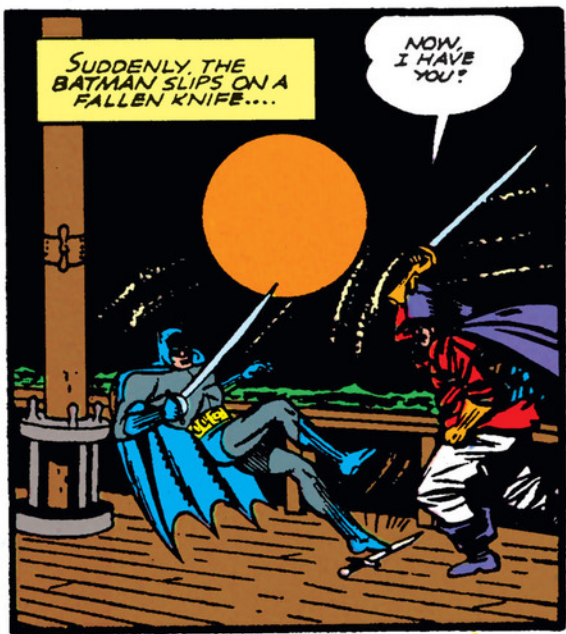
WORDS, BLACKBEARD— JUST WORDS!



THEY MEET, TEST THEIR STRENGTH, AND THEN ARE AT IT! THE DECK RINGS WITH THIS CLASH OF STEEL....

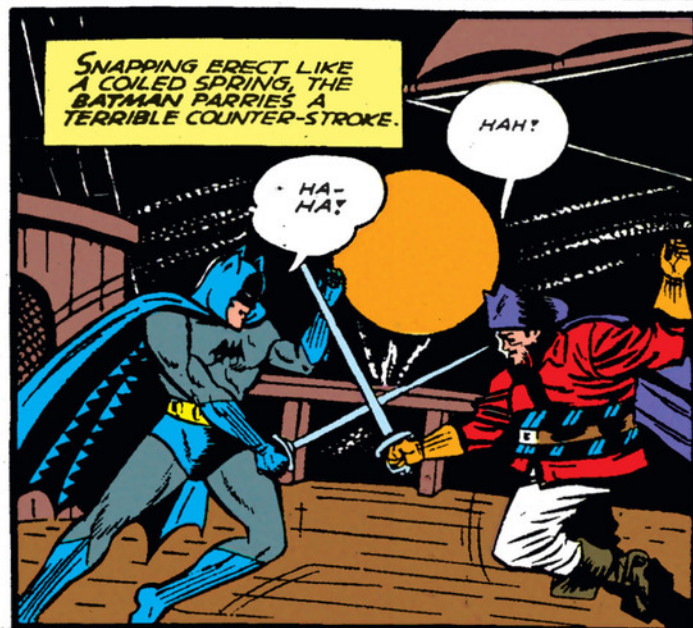
YOU'LL EAT MY NAKED STEEL YET!

SORRY, BUT IT'S NOT ON MY DIET!

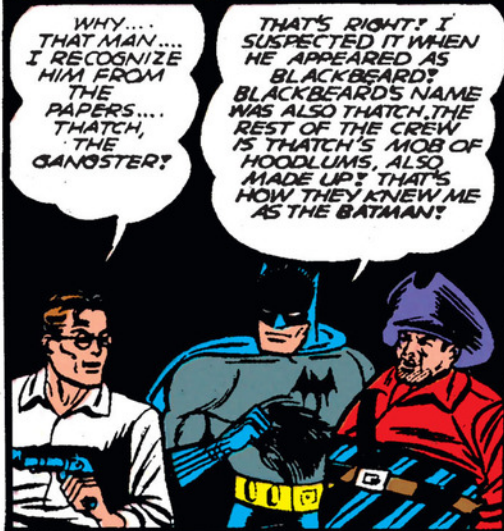


SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN SLIPS ON A FALLEN KNIFE....

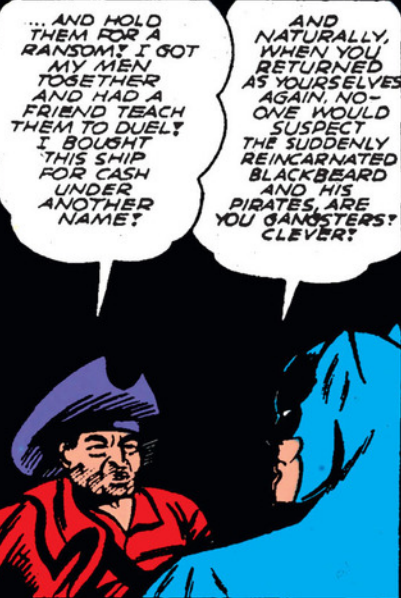
NOW, I HAVE YOU!



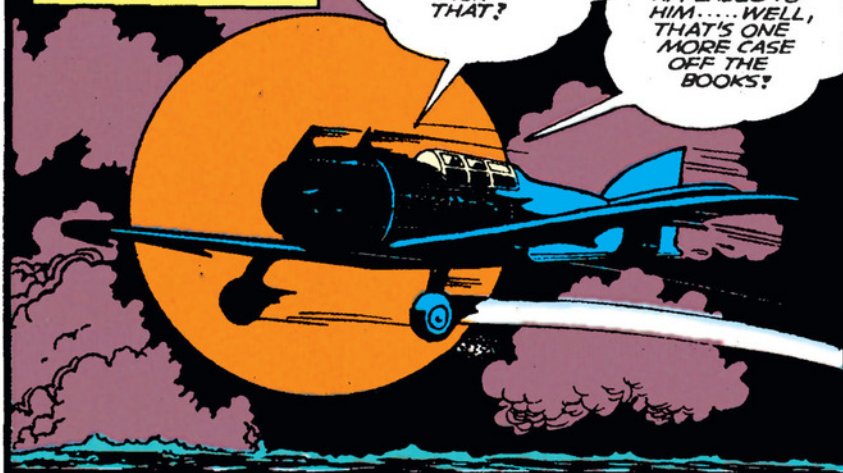
THE BATMAN YANKS AT THE BEARD AND....



THATCH CONFESSES....



LATER THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, TAKE LEAVE OF THE SHIP....



THE BATMAN'S ADVENTURE MAY BE FINISHED, BUT FOR OTHERS IT IS JUST BEGINNING... ABOARD THE YACHT....



I HEAR YOU'RE THINKING OF QUITTING THE FIELD, COWDEN!

I WAS, BUT THIS TRIP SUDDENLY SHOWED ME WHAT EXCITEMENT THERE IS IN FIGHTING INSTEAD OF QUITTING! NO SIR, I'M NOT QUITTING!



THEN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIRE ME?

HM? HARUMPH! NO! OUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS MEN LIKE YOU! I RATHER LIKE THE WAY YOU SPOKE UP TO ME... SHOULD HAVE A LONG TIME AGO! HERE—HAVE A CIGAR?





Acclaimed

AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE ADVENTURE TEAM

THE AMAZING BATMAN

WITH THAT SENSATIONAL YOUNG PHENOMENON, THE ORIGINAL AND GREATEST WONDER BOY OF THEM ALL **ROBIN**— THRILL YOU EVERY MONTH— WITH THEIR ASTOUNDING, ACTION-A-MINUTE EXPLOITS IN DETECTIVE COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB KANE

2¢

AUTHENTICATED NEWS
NEW YORK'S BEST

2¢

2 CENTS

VOL. X, NO. 41

NEW YORK CITY

PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 STARTS JAIL SENTENCE

ALONG WITH THE GLITTER OF WEALTH THEY SOUGHT, MEN OF EVIL COULD EXPECT TO FIND THEIR NEMESIS THE BATMAN, MASTER OF TIME AND SLEUTH, WHO TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WITH THE AID OF LAUGHING ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, HAD CRUSHED THE LOATHSOME CRIMINAL VULTURES WHO SOUGHT TO PREY ON SOCIETY

CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION FILES



LEFT HAND



RIGHT HAND

JIMMY MISCOY

JIMMY MISCOY
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1
FOUND GUILTY
OF CRIME, PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1...
THEN, DESERTED BY HIS FRIENDS,
HUNTED BY THE POLICE, DIED
VIOLENTLY AND ALONE, IN THE
VERY GUTTER THAT HAD
BEEN HIS BEGINNING!...
THERE IS A MORAL TO HIS
STORY... PERHAPS YOU
ALREADY KNOW IT BY NOW.

YOU WIN, JIMMY, DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!

WELL, JIMMY, YOU DID IT. YOU'RE KING OF THE RACKETS!

MANY MEN HAVE TRIED TO BEAT THE LAW. JIMMY MISCOY WAS SUCH A MAN. HE STARTED FROM THE GUTTER, CLAWED HIS WAY UP UNTIL HE BECAME AN OVERLORD OF CRIME, PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1... THEN, DESERTED BY HIS FRIENDS, HUNTED BY THE POLICE, DIED VIOLENTLY AND ALONE, IN THE VERY GUTTER THAT HAD BEEN HIS BEGINNING!... THERE IS A MORAL TO HIS STORY... PERHAPS YOU ALREADY KNOW IT BY NOW.

THE REAL STORY OF JIMMY ME COY BEGINS WHEN HIS FATHER WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT AT THE PLANT WHERE HE WORKED...

OH, JIMMY, WHATEVER WILL BECOME OF US NOW?

DON'T WORRY I'LL QUIT SCHOOL AND GET A JOB! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

GIVE IT TO 'IM!

D... DON'T! OH?

WISE GUY EH?

WOW! WHAT A CLOUT!

WHEN JIMMY AND HIS MOTHER MOVED TO A POORER SECTION OF TOWN... THE SLUMS. JIMMY LEARNED THE LAW OF THE STREETS, AND IN SPITE OF HIS SIZE, BECAME KNOWN AS A TOUGH LITTLE EGG...

THOUGH HE WORKED, HE DIDN'T EARN MUCH AND HIS MOTHER HAD TO TAKE IN WASHING. AT THIS TIME, PROHIBITION WAS PASSED!

... AND ALL I DO IS TAKE THE BOTTLES THEM BOOTLEGGERS GIVE ME AND DELIVER 'EM TO PEOPLE!... AND LOOK AT THE DOUGH I GET.

GEE, IF I COULD EARN REAL DOUGH, MOM WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD! MAYBE THIS GUY COULD GET ME A JOB!

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE JIMMY WAS DELIVERING BOOTLEG LIQUOR! HE TOLD HIS MOTHER HE HAD A GOOD JOB IN AN OFFICE... AND SHE... GULLIBLE SOUL... BELIEVED HIM!

HERE'S THE STUFF FOR MR. COURTNEY!

OKAY! HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU TO BRING SOME MORE FOR THE PARTY HE'S THROWING TOMORROW NIGHT!

THEN, ONE DAY, JIMMY WAS CAUGHT AND TRIED BEFORE A JUSTICE...

BUT HE WAS ALWAYS SUCH A GOOD BOY!

NEVERTHE- LESS, IT IS THE DUTY OF THIS COURT TO SENTENCE YOU TO THE BOYS' REFORMATORY TILL YOU REACH THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

THAT'S A YEAR AND A HALF!

UPON HEARING THE SENTENCE, HIS MOTHER GAVE A HEART-RENDING SHRIEK AND TOPPLED TO THE FLOOR! THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH, AND SHE DIED WITH HER SON'S NAME ON HER LIPS!

MOM. MOM!

JIMMY. AHHH!

JIMMY WENT TO THE REFORMATORY, BUT FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE DELUDED BOY SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT THE LAW WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER!

THEY KILLED HER! THEY KILLED MY MOM!

WHEN HE WAS RELEASED, JIMMY SECURED ANOTHER JOB DELIVERING BOOTLEG LIQUOR, BUT HE WAS SOON CAUGHT AGAIN!

... AND SINCE YOU ARE TOO OLD TO BE SENT TO THE BOYS' REFORMATORY, I MUST SENTENCE YOU TO ONE YEAR AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY!

IN JAIL, JIMMY BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH HARDENED CRIMINALS... MEN WHO HAD BUCKED THE LAW ALL THEIR LIFE!



WHEN WE GET OUT, KID, I'LL GET YOU IN WITH A MOB! I KNOW! YOU'RE A SMART KID! YOU CAN GET TO BE A BIG SHOT!

...AN' FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GONNA BUY OUR BEER! - AN' IF YA DON'T...



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, JIMMY MCSOY CHANGED FROM AN EMBITTERED BOY, TO A SNEERING, CUNNING CRIMINAL.

JIMMY WASN'T CONTENT TO BE A MERE MOBSTER. HE ORGANIZED HIS OWN MOB AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS BEING CALLED THE KING OF RACKETS!



I WANT YOU BOYS TO PAY A VISIT TO AUGIE DAVIS! TELL HIM I'M TAKING OVER THE NORTH SIDE! GET GOIN'!

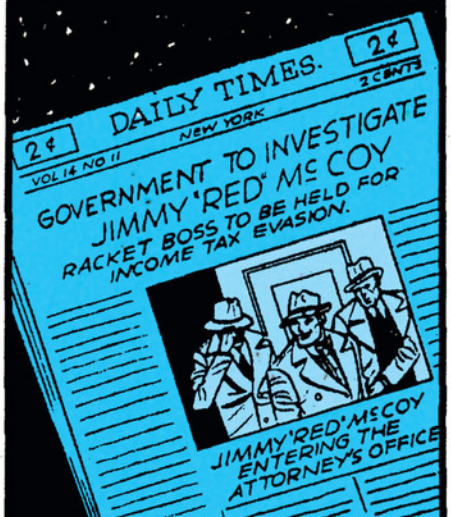
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? BOOTLEGGIN' WON'T GET US DOUGH ANYMORE!

THEN ONE DAY, JIMMY'S BUBBLE BURST... PROHIBITION WAS REPEALED!



WE'LL EXPAND OUR "PROTECTION" RACKET! THERE'S WAYS WE CAN GET DOUGH FROM THE SUCKERS! STOP WORRYIN'!

BUT THE PUBLIC WAS AFTER JIMMY AND HIS LIKE!... G-MEN CALLED HIM 'PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1'!



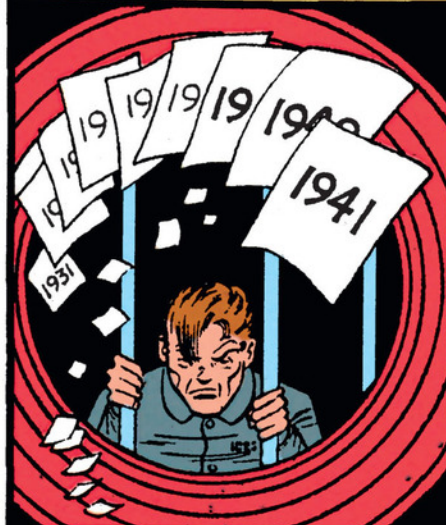
INVESTIGATION OF JIMMY'S EARNINGS SHOWED HE HAD BEEN CARELESS ABOUT HIS ENTRIES. HE WAS FOUND GUILTY...



THE COURT FINDS YOU GUILTY OF TAX EVASION AND SENTENCES YOU TO TEN YEARS IN THE STATE PRISON!

WH-AT? WHY, YOLL, YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME? I'M JIMMY MCSOY! I CAN BUY AND SELL YOU!

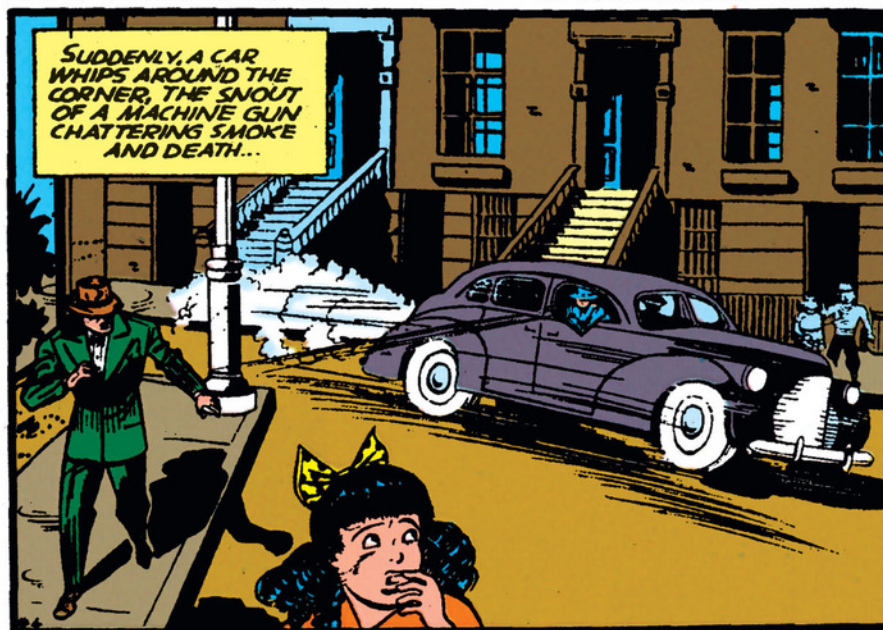
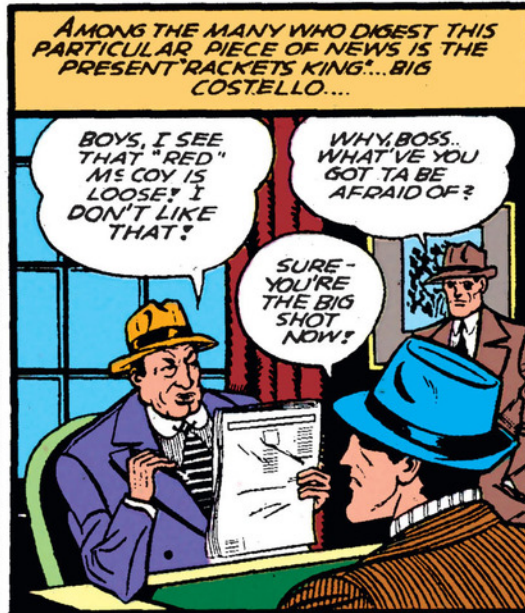
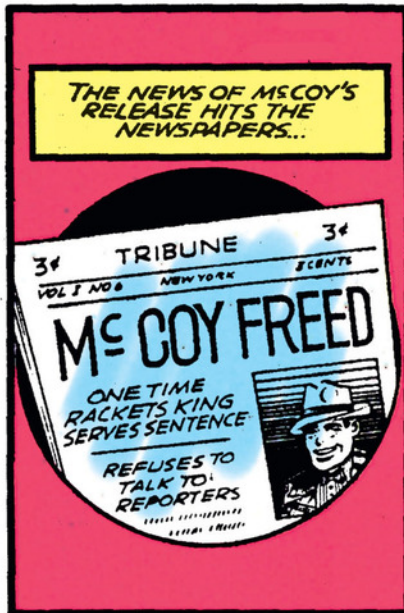
BUT JIMMY'S THREATS DIDN'T HELP HIM... HE WAS SENT TO PRISON. THE YEARS PASSED...



THEN, THE DAY CAME WHEN HE WAS RELEASED... JIMMY "RED" MCSOY WAS FREE ONCE MORE!



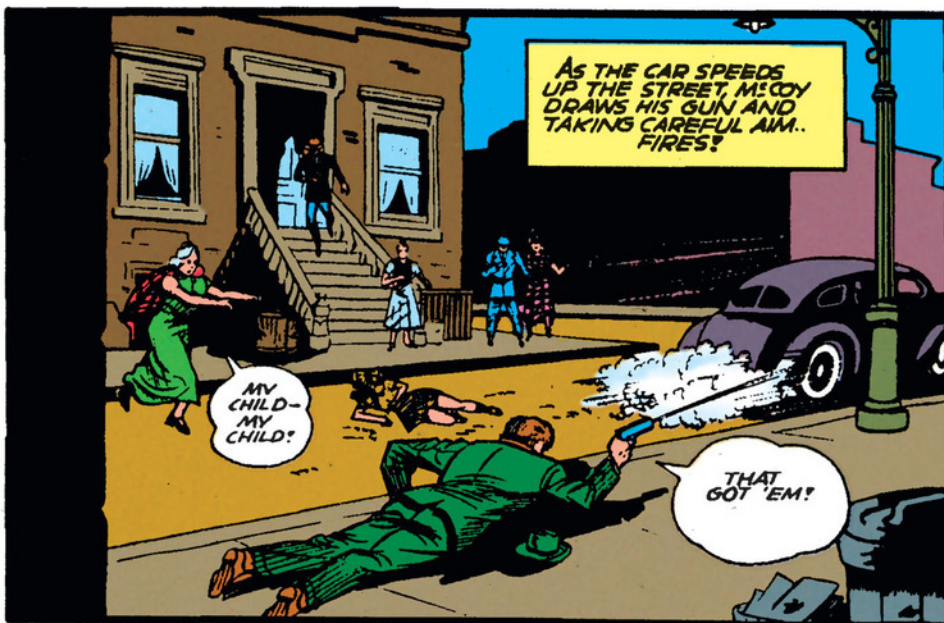
NOW THAT I'M OUT, THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO IS GET MY OLD MOB TOGETHER! I'M GONNA RUN THIS TOWN JUST LIKE I USED TO!



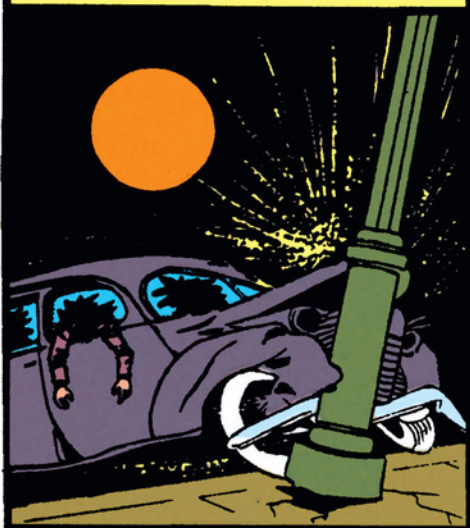
BUT ONE STRAY BULLET FINDS A TARGET... IN THE LEG OF A LITTLE GIRL RUNNING FOR SAFETY!



AS THE CAR SPEEDS UP THE STREET, MCSOY DRAWS HIS GUN AND TAKING CAREFUL AIM... FIRES!



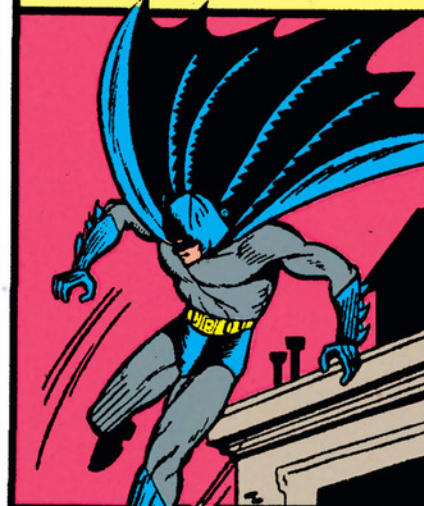
AS THE TIRE BLOWS OUT THE CAR SKIDS MADLY AND CRASHES INTO A POLE!



WITH A TRIUMPHANT LAUGH, MCSOY LEAPS TO HIS FEET AND DARTS AWAY.



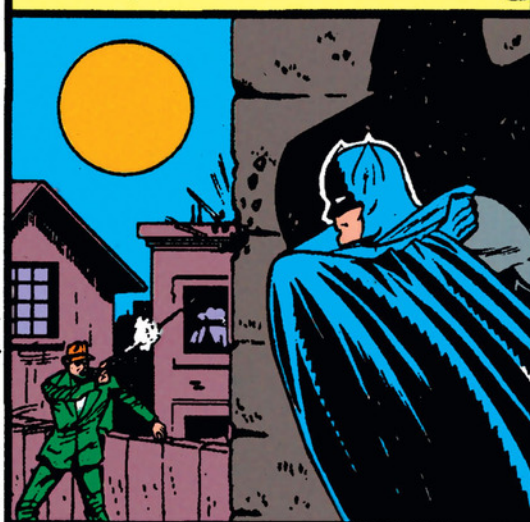
BUT AT THAT MOMENT A MANTLED FIGURE PLUMMETS DOWN FROM A LOW ROOF TOPIT IS THE BATMAN!



...THE MIGHTY CRIME-SMASHER CHASES AFTER THE FLEEING HOODLUM.....

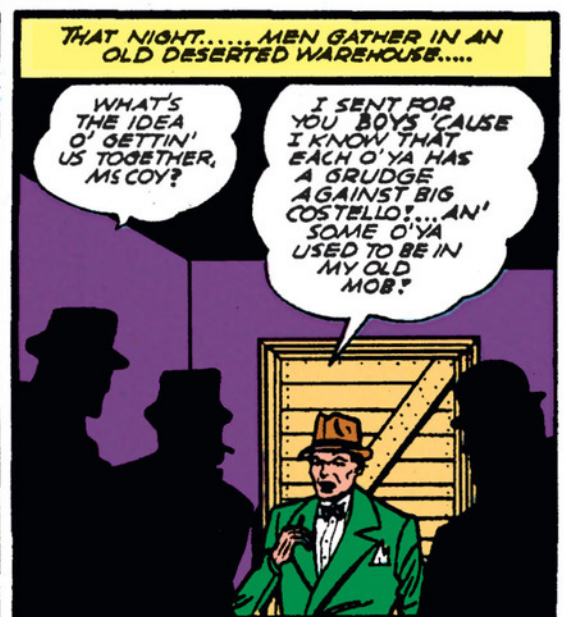
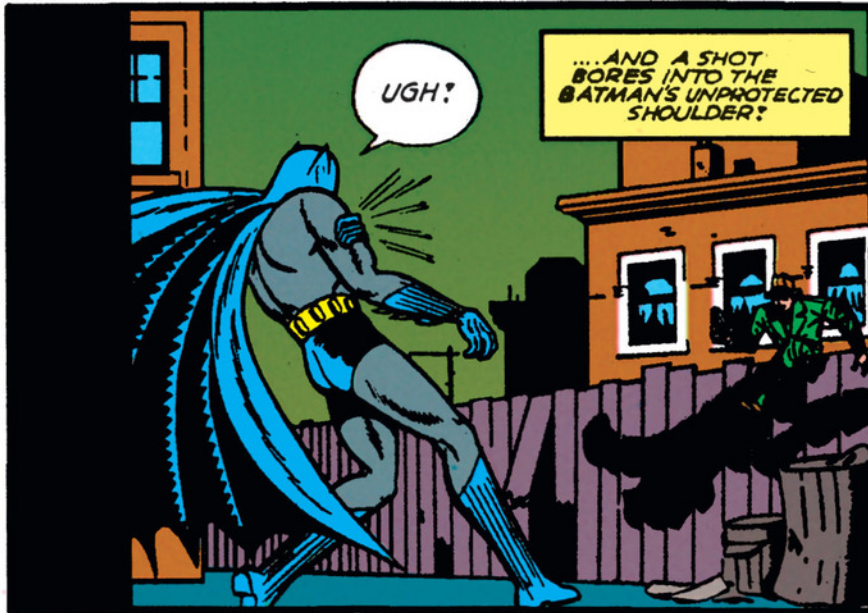


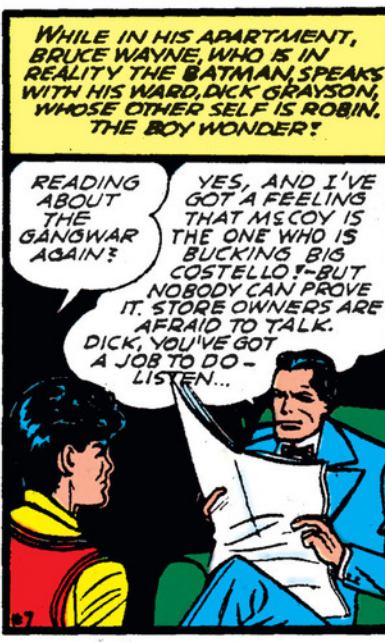
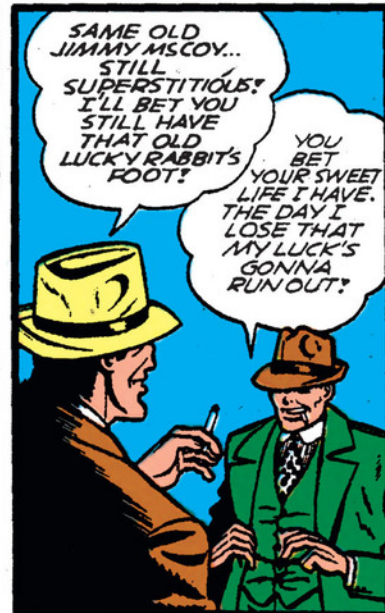
THE BATMAN FLATTENS HIMSELF AGAINST THE WALL AS BULLETS HIT THE WALL, SENDING CHIPS INTO HIS FACE.....



AS THE CHASE IS RESUMED, THE GUNMAN STRADDLES A FENCE, AND WHIPPING AROUND, FIRES AGAIN!..







THE NEXT DAY, A GRUBBY DIRTY-FACED SHOE-SHINE BOY STANDS BEFORE THE HOUSE WHEREIN "RED" MC COY LIVES.



BUT INSTEAD OF "SCRAMMING" THE BOY FOLLOWS THE GANGSTERS INTO THE HOUSE....



HE STEPS SOFTLY TO THE DOOR AND LISTENS INTENTLY AT THE KEYHOLE.



APPLYING HIS EYE TO THE KEYHOLE, THE BOY BEGINS TO READ THE LIPS OF THE MEN.....



READING THE LIPS, AS WOULD A DEAF MAN, IS ONE OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS USED BY THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

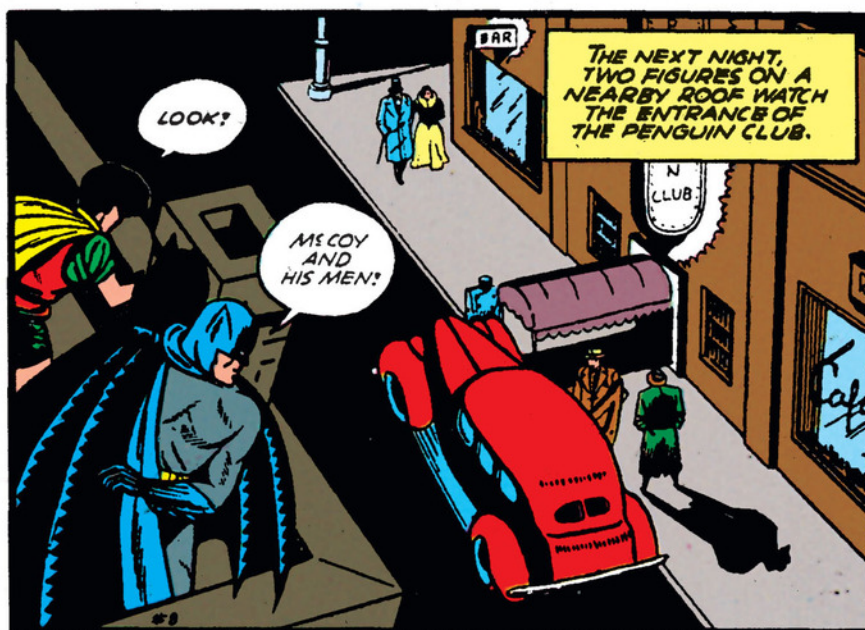
THE BOY WONDER QUICKLY REPORTS TO HIS CHIEF....

AND THE OWNER OF THE PENGUIN CLUB REFUSES TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY TO MC COY BECAUSE HE SAYS HE'S PAYING COSTELLO FOR THAT?

SO, THEY'RE GOING TO SCARE HIM TOMORROW NIGHT? HMM! I'VE A HUNCH WE'LL BE THERE, TOO!



....BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING PLACE.... THE NIGHT CLUB OWNER CALLS BIG COSTELLO!

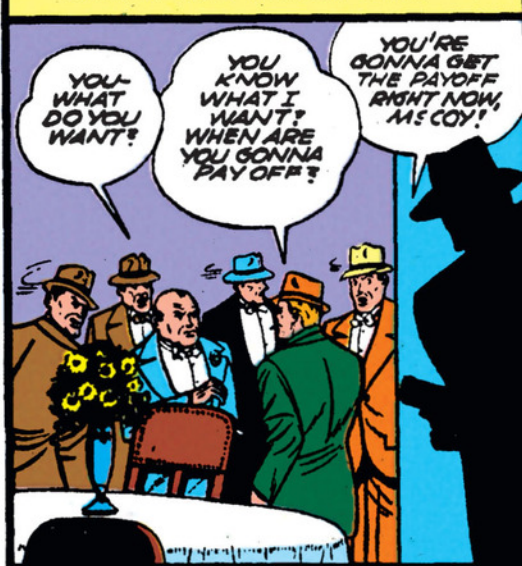


THE NEXT NIGHT, TWO FIGURES ON A NEARBY ROOF WATCH THE ENTRANCE OF THE PENGUIN CLUB.

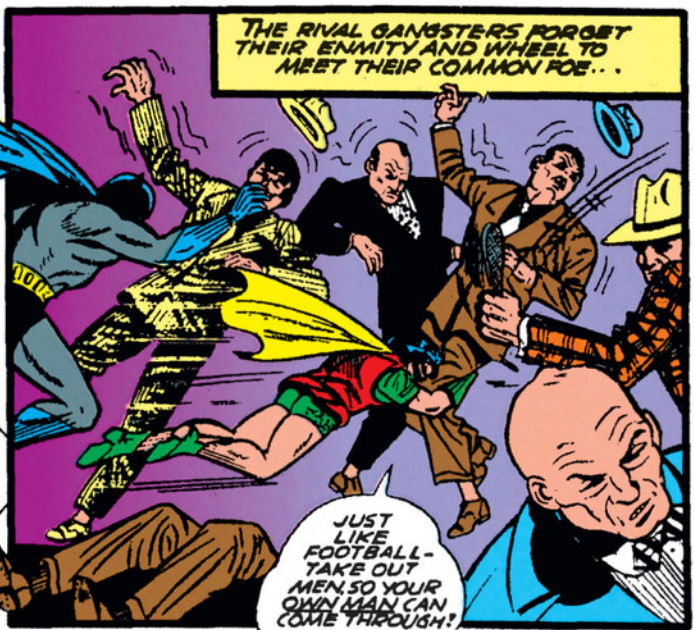
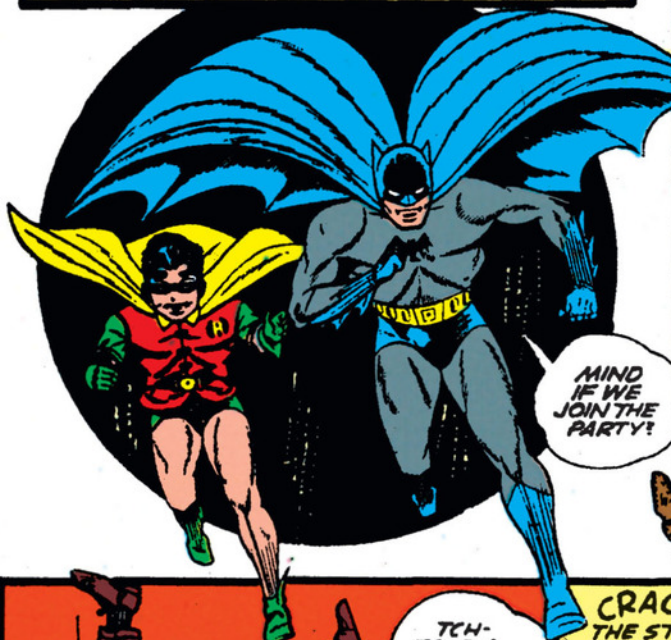
A SCANT FEW MOMENTS LATER...



INSIDE THE PENGUIN CLUB

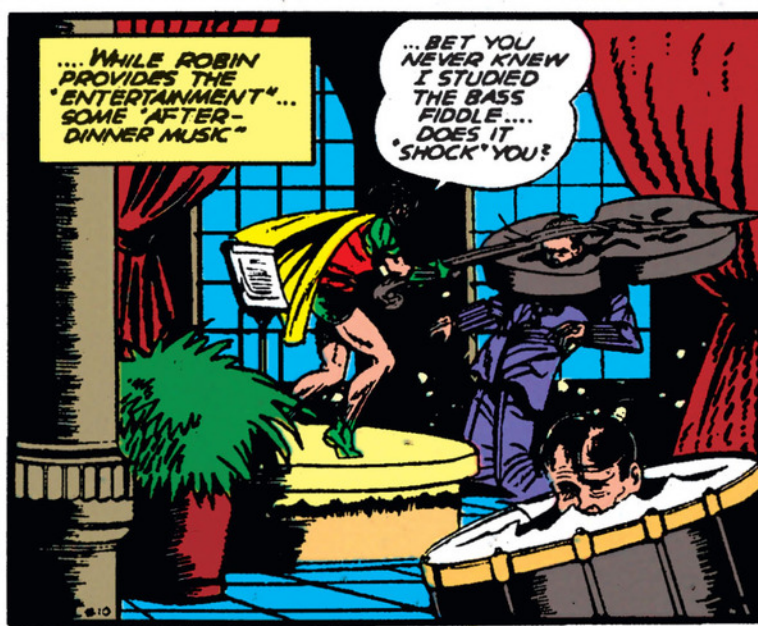
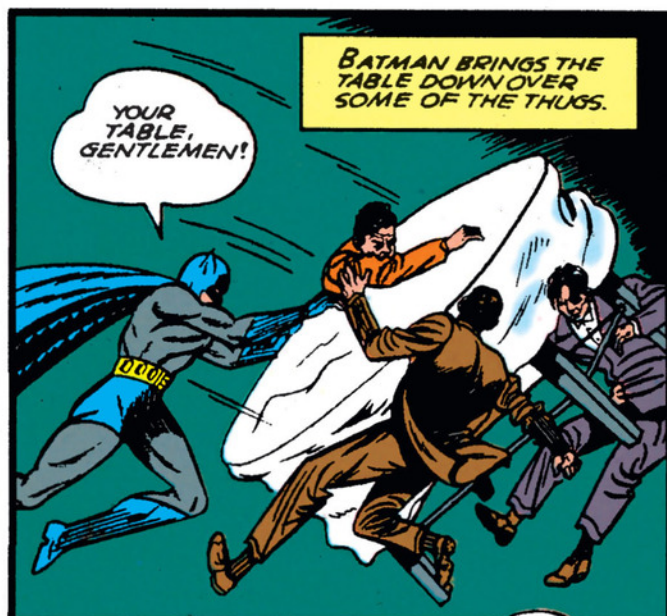


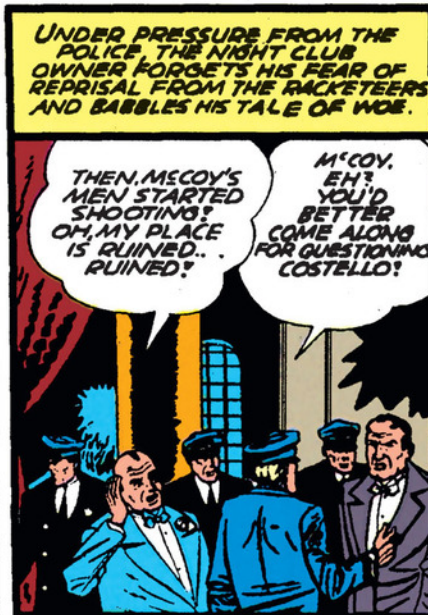
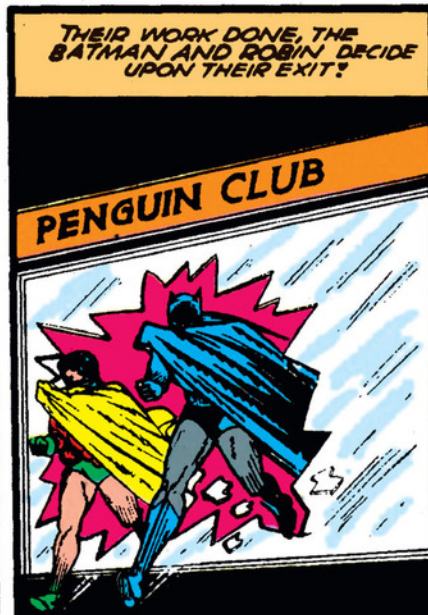
ABRUPTLY, STREAKING TOWARD THE FRAY ARE TWO INSPIRING FIGURES... IT IS THAT DYNAMIC DUO... BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

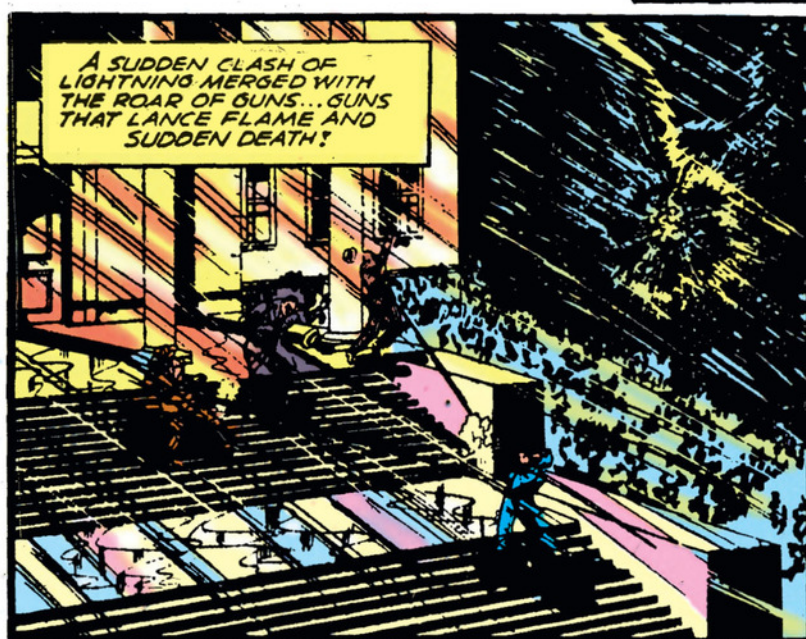
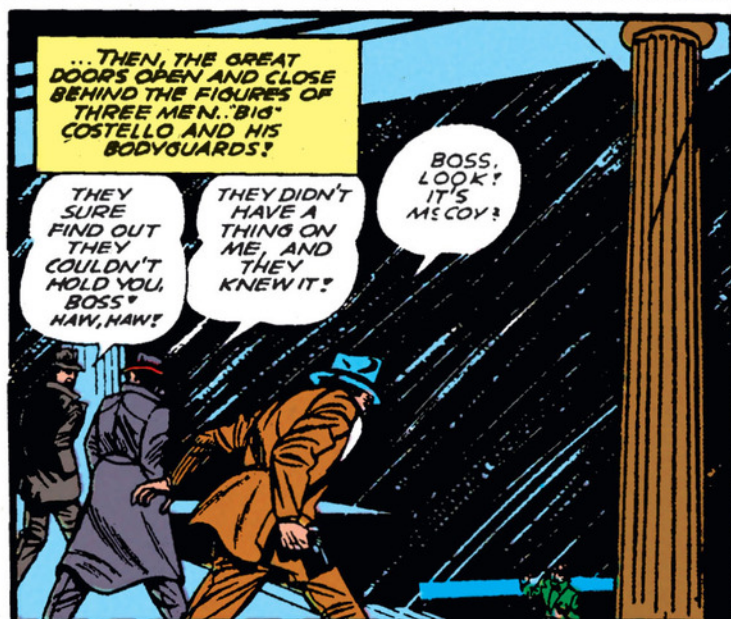
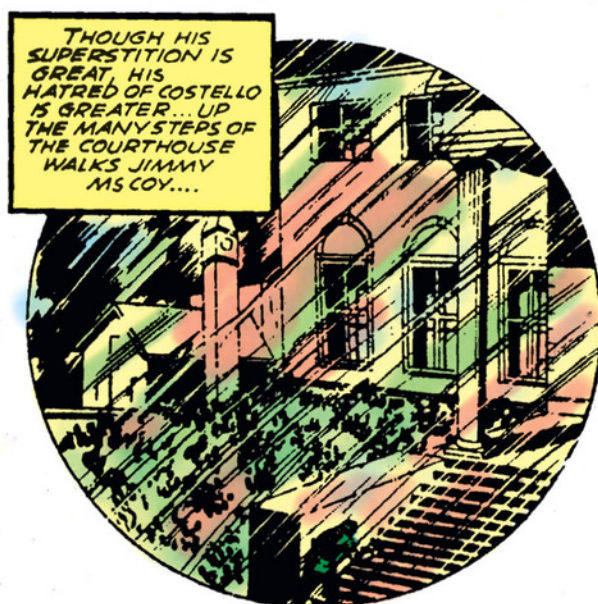
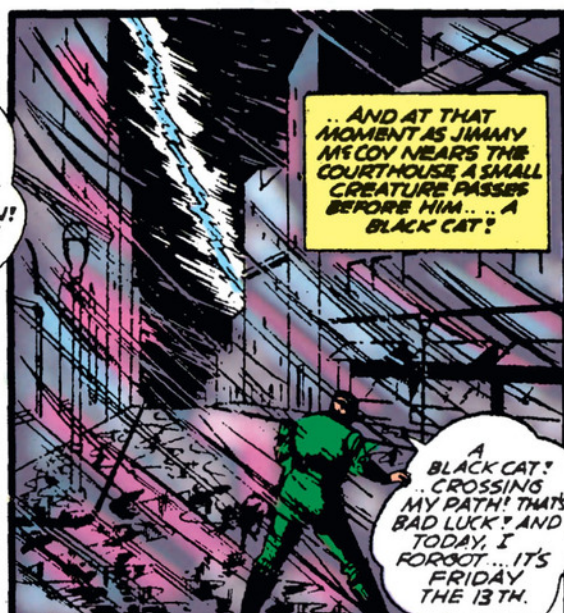
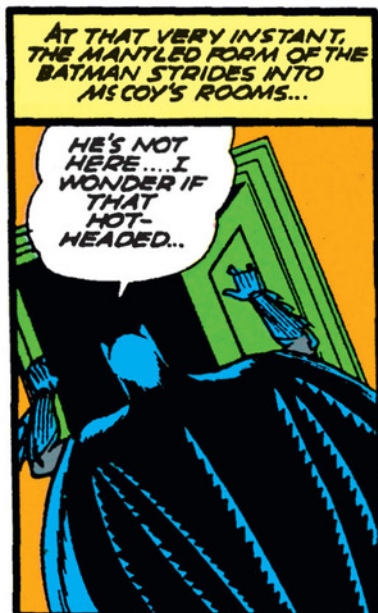


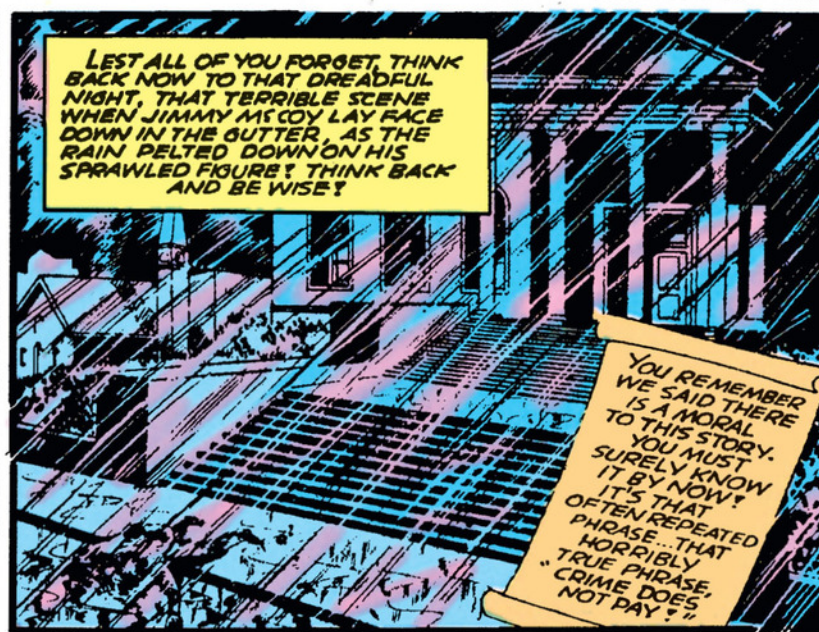
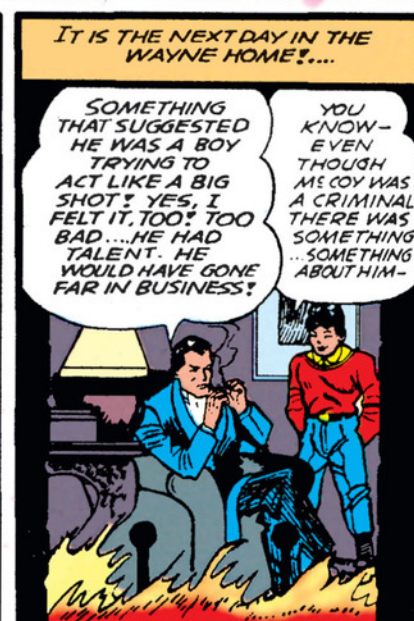
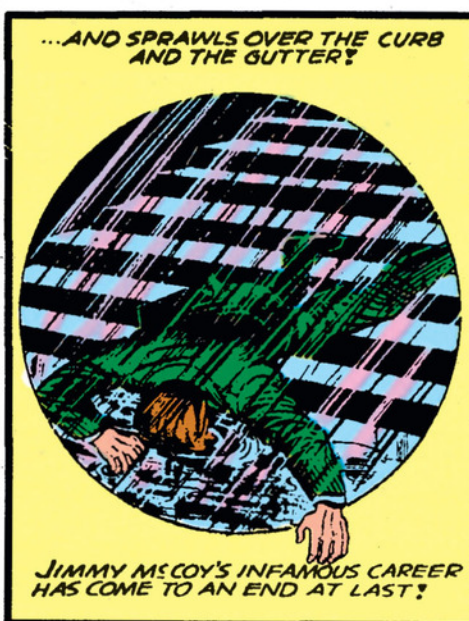
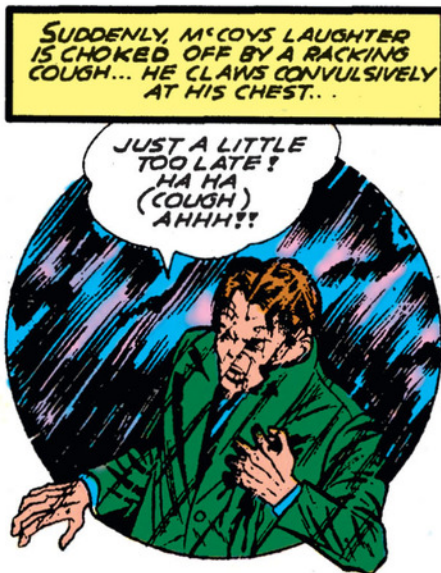
MR. COY .. THOUGH NICKED IN THE SHOULDER - BLAZES AWAY FURIOUSLY AT THE RIVAL GANGSTERS







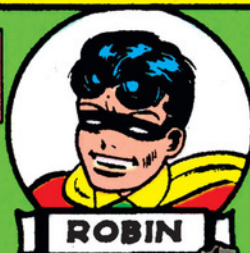




BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

BY
BOB KANE

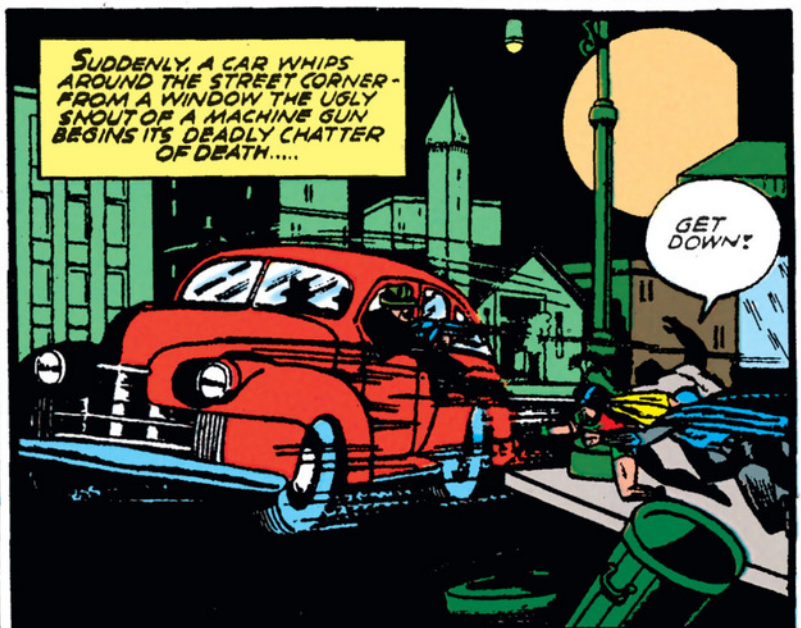
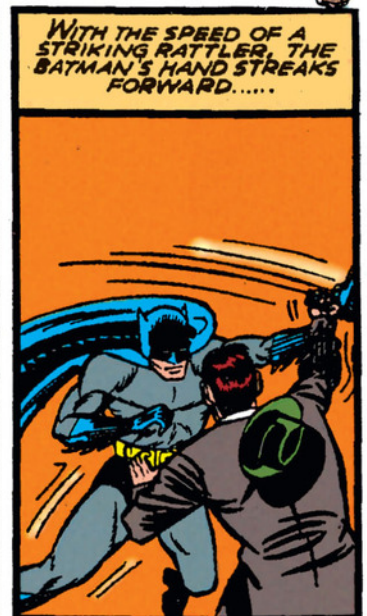
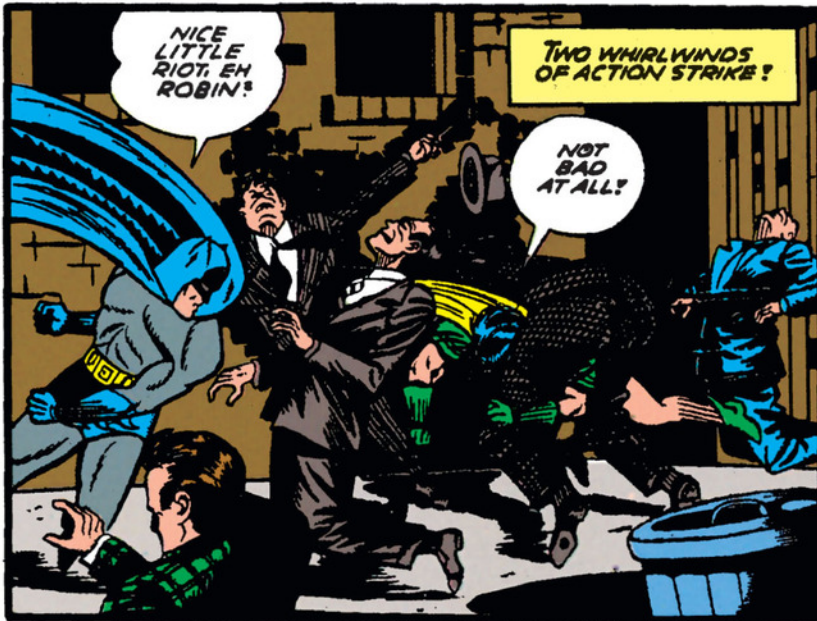


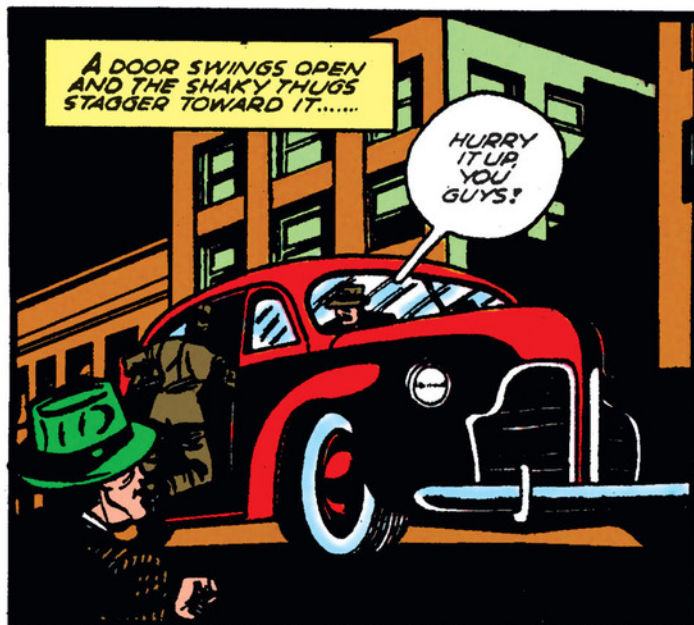
SUPERSLEUTH, ARCH-AVenger OF CRIME, FOE OF THE UNDERWORLD THIS IS THE BATMAN? A DARK-MANTLED FIGHTER WHO SEEMS TO DWELL IN NIGHT ITSELF AND WHOSE FAME AS A SCOURGE OF EVIL HAS BECOME ALMOST LEGENDARY. ASSISTING THE BATMAN IN HIS UNCEASING BATTLE AGAINST CRIME IS A BOY... NOT AN ORDINARY BOY... BUT ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! LITTLE WONDER IT IS THEN THAT EVERY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME HAS RESULTED IN COMPLETE VICTORY FOR THE DYNAMIC DUO?...



As a group of thugs attack a man, suddenly the air is split by a challenging cry, and whirling, the hoodlums see two dreadfully familiar figures racing toward them... IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!...

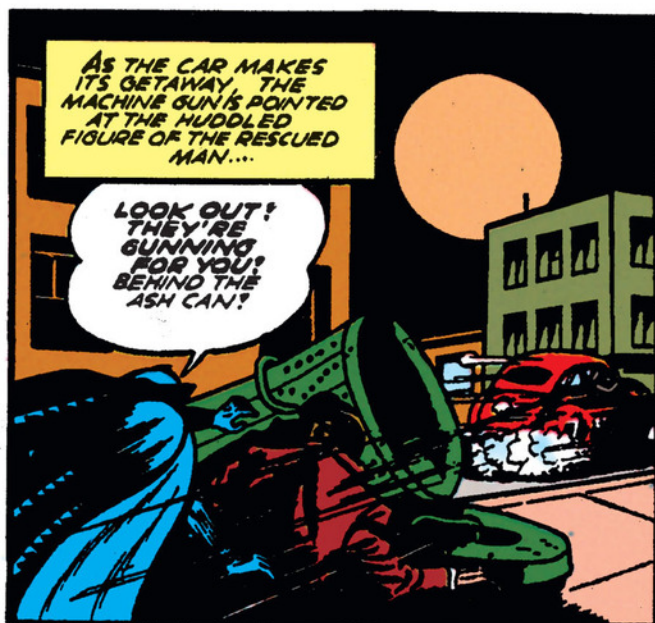






A DOOR SWINGS OPEN AND THE SHAKY THUGS STAGGER TOWARD IT.....

HURRY IT UP YOU GUYS!



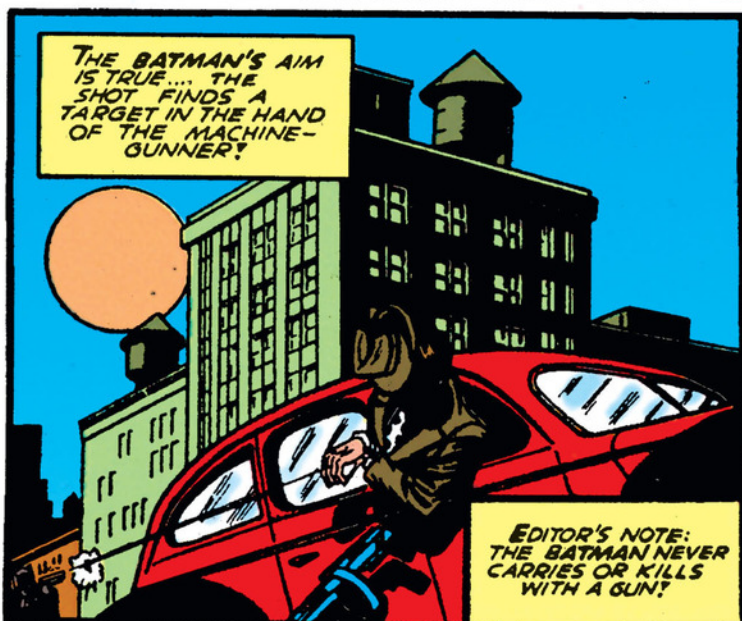
AS THE CAR MAKES ITS GETAWAY THE MACHINE GUN IS POINTED AT THE HUDDLED FIGURE OF THE RESCUED MAN....

LOOK OUT! THEY'RE GUNNING FOR YOU! BEHIND THE ASH CAN!



AS BULLETS WHINE OVER HIM LIKE ANGRY HORNETS, THE BATMAN PICKS UP A GUN DROPPED BY A THUG, TAKES CAREFUL AIM--- AND FIRES!

JUST WANT TO WIN HIM?



THE BATMAN'S AIM IS TRUE.... THE SHOT FINDS A TARGET IN THE HAND OF THE MACHINE-GUNNER!

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE BATMAN NEVER CARRIES OR KILLS WITH A GUN!

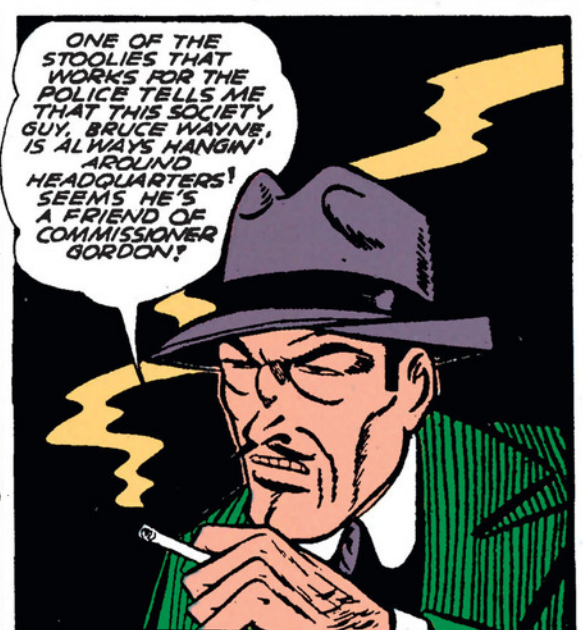
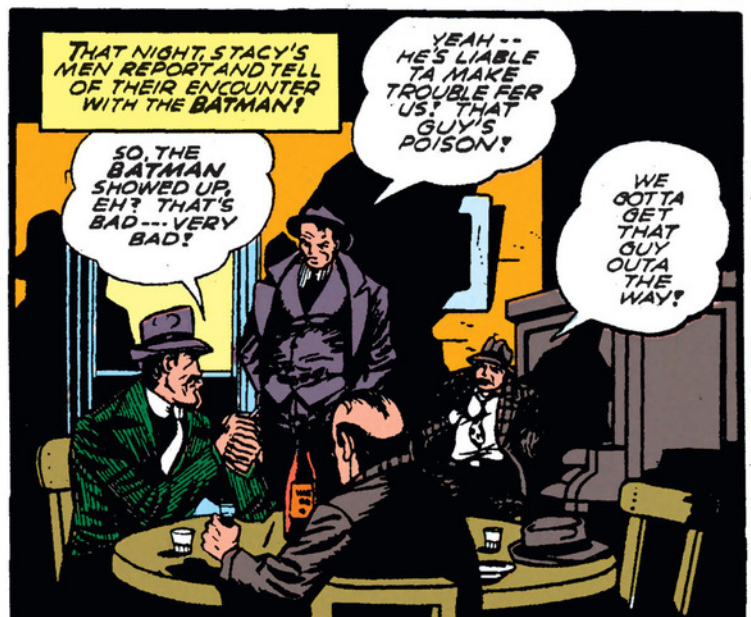
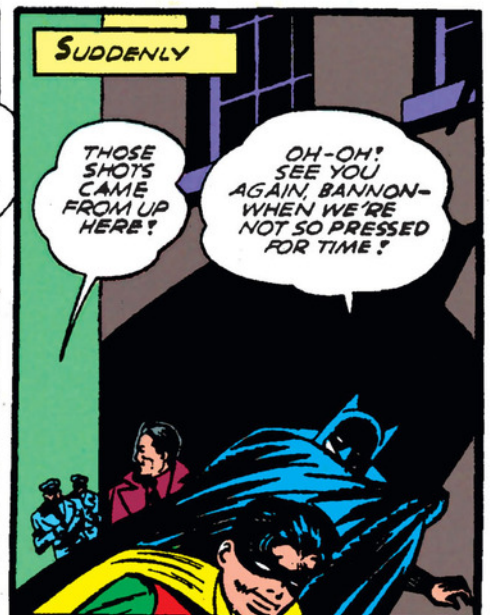
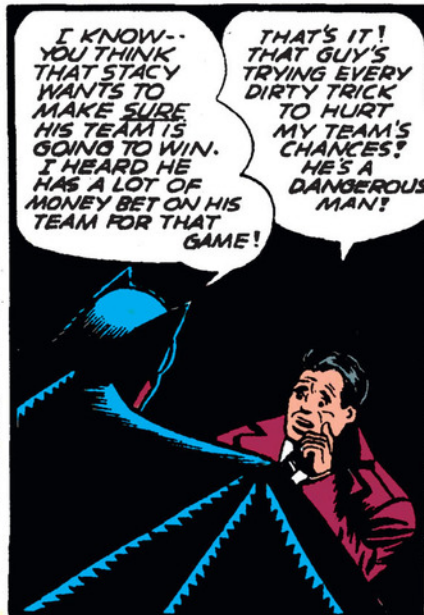


YOU CAN GET UP NOW! I DON'T THINK THEY WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE!



SAY, AREN'T YOU TIM BANNON, THE COACH OF THE PANTHERS-- THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM?

YES-- AND YOU'RE THE BATMAN? I'VE HEARD OF YOU!





NOW WHAT'S A RICH PLAYBOY LIKE HIM HANGING AROUND THERE SO MUCH? MAYBE THIS "PLAYBOY" BUSINESS IS AN ACT SO THE POLICE DON'T GET WISE!

SOUNDS GOOD! WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, STACY?

WITH THESE FEW WORDS, THE STAGE IS BEING SET FOR A TITANIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND THE MINIONS OF CRIME! WHO WILL WIN? WILL THE BATMAN BE EXPOSED?



THE NEXT MORNING, BRUCE RECEIVES A PHONE CALL....

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I KNOW YOU ARE THE BATMAN! I'M IN DANGER! THEY WANT TO KILL ME!

YES- THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE. WHO?



I LIVE AT 2255 GRAND STREET ON THE FOURTH FLOOR! DON'T FAIL TO COME THERE TOMORROW NIGHT AT TEN! CLICK!

WHA..? HELLO! HELLO!



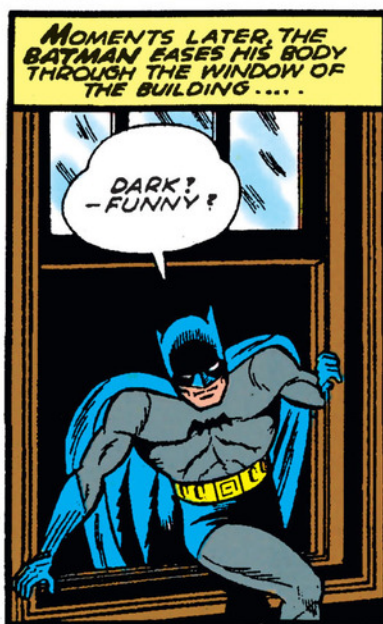
HOW COULD ANYONE KNOW YOU'RE THE BATMAN?

I DON'T KNOW... BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT TOMORROW NIGHT AT TEN!



THE NEXT NIGHT - TWO MANTLED FIGURES ARE POISED AGAINST THE INKY SKY THAT FORMS THE BACKDROP OF THE GREAT STAGE THAT IS CALLED - GOTHAM CITY....

THAT'S THE BUILDING DOWN THERE!



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMAN EASES HIS BODY THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE BUILDING....

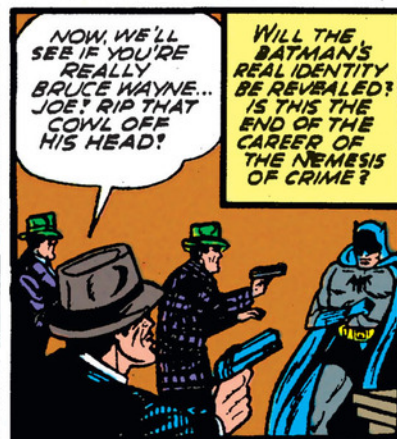
DARK? - FUNNY?



SUDDENLY, LIGHTS BLAZE ON.... THE BATMAN HAS WALKED INTO A TRAP!

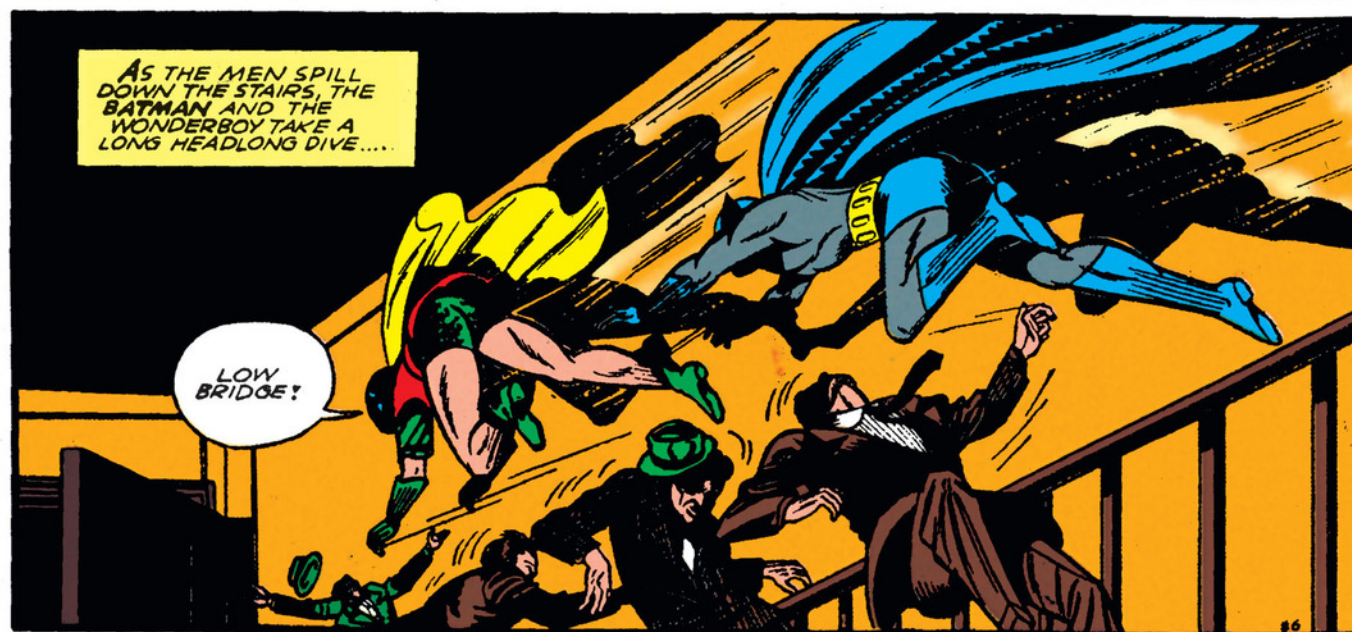
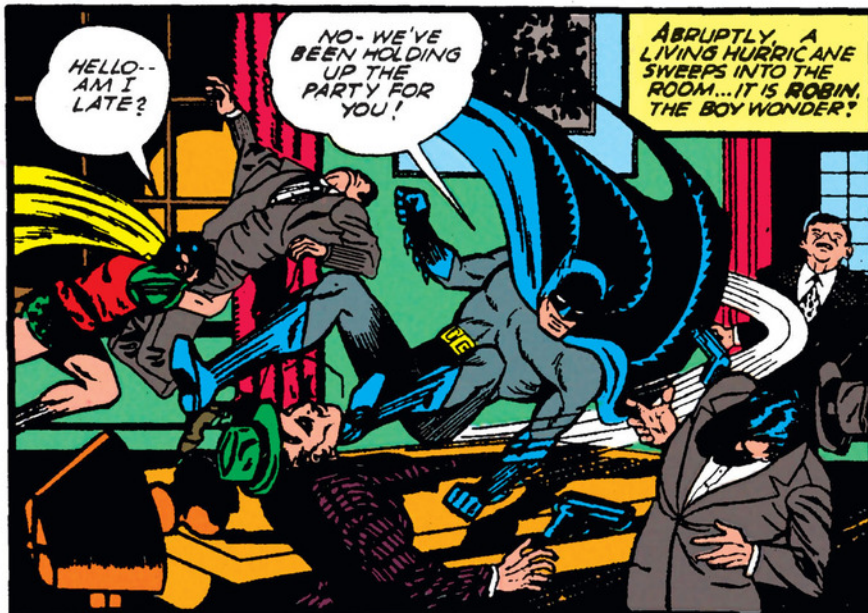


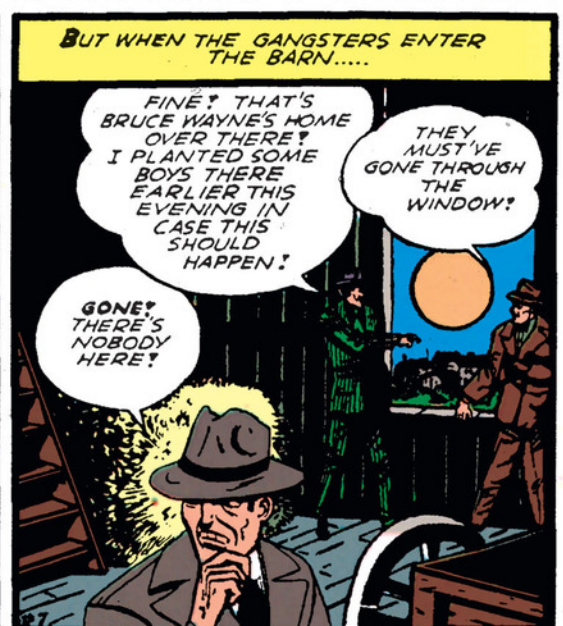
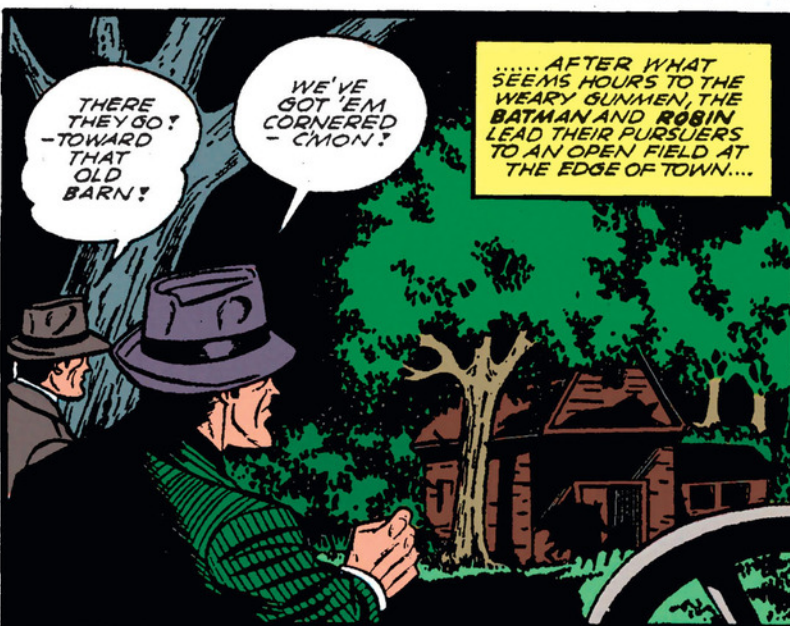
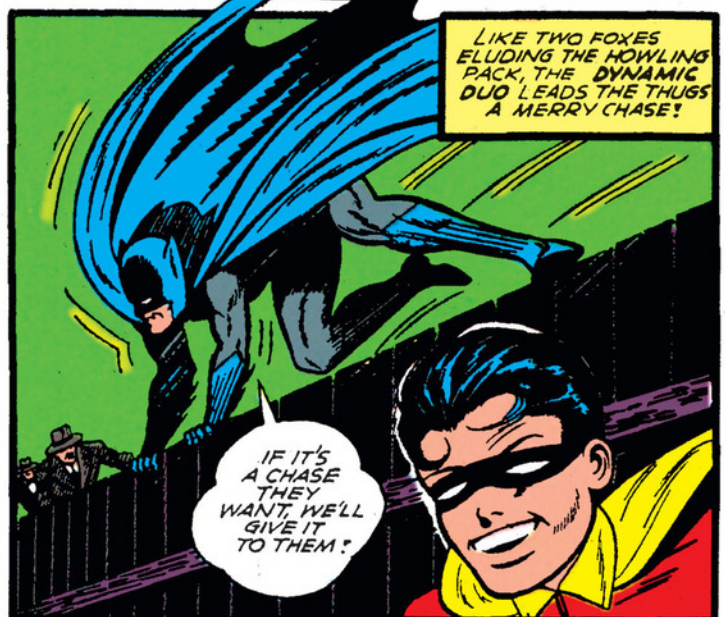
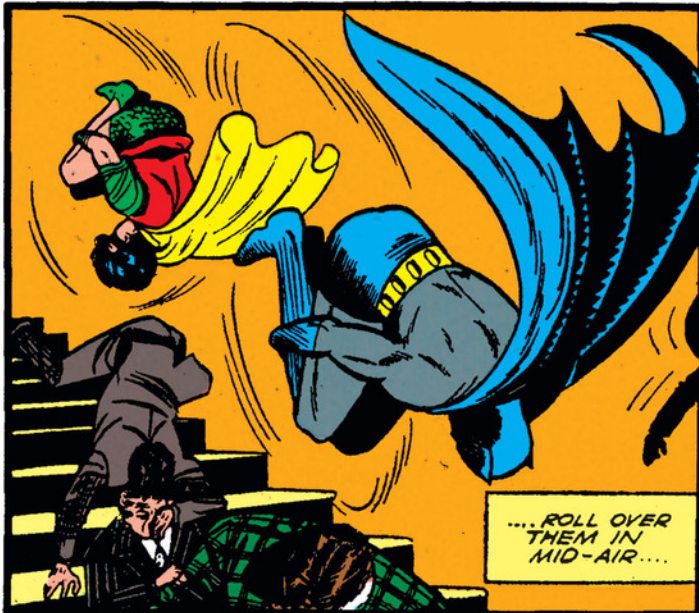
"COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY?" APPROPRIATE, EH, BATMAN?

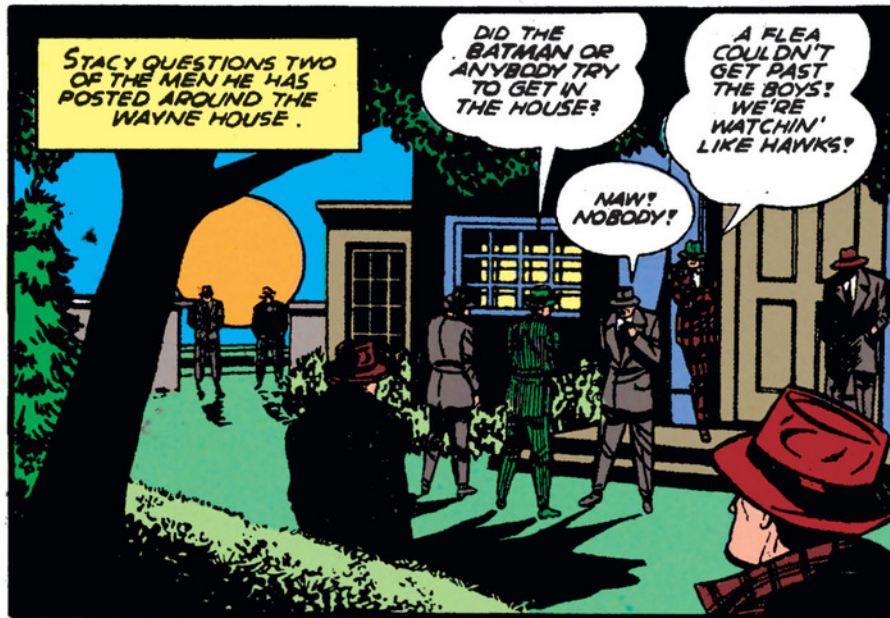


NOW, WE'LL SEE IF YOU'RE REALLY BRUCE WAYNE... JOE! RIP THAT COWL OFF HIS HEAD!

WILL THE BATMAN'S REAL IDENTITY BE REVEALED? IS THIS THE END OF THE CAREER OF THE NEMESIS OF CRIME?







STACY QUESTIONS TWO OF THE MEN HE HAS POSTED AROUND THE WAYNE HOUSE.

DID THE BATMAN OR ANYBODY TRY TO GET IN THE HOUSE?

A FLEA COULDN'T GET PAST THE BOYS! WE'RE WATCHIN' LIKE HAWKS!

NAW? NOBODY!



JUST THEN, THE HOODLUMS HEAR A VOICE, AND WHEEL ABOUT TO SEE THE MAN THEY SUSPECT IS THE BATMAN... BRUCE WAYNE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU PEOPLE ARE, BUT YOU'RE DISTURBING ME!

ULP?

IT'S HIM! - BRUCE WAYNE!



WITH A FINAL ADMONISHING, BRUCE CLOSES THE DOOR ON THE BEWILDERED MEN!

THAT GUY CAN'T BE THE BATMAN! NOBODY GOT PAST US!

IT MUST BE A TRICK! LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW AND SEE WHAT HE'S DOING!



WHAT THE MEN SEE WHEN THEY PEER THROUGH THE WINDOW.

THAT'S HIM! LET'S WATCH HIM AWHILE...

YEAH? HE'S READIN' A BOOK

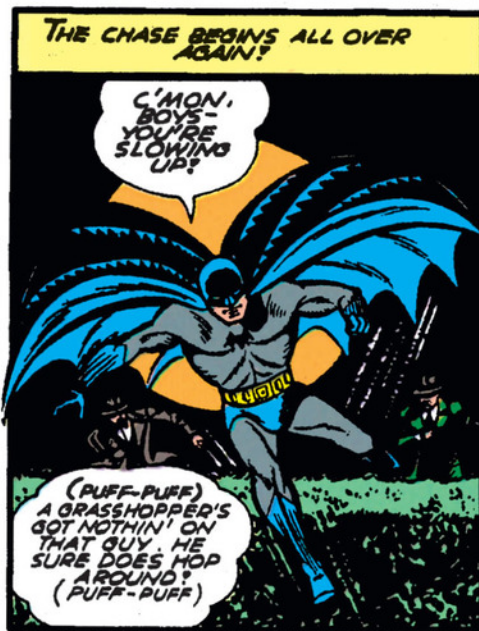


IDLY, THE MEN WATCH FOR A FEW MINUTES..... WHEN SUDDENLY... ..

HYA BOYS! LOOKING FOR ME?

ULP! THEN THIS WAYNE GUY CAN'T BE HIM! HE'S STILL SITTING IN THE CHAIR READIN' A BOOK!

THE BATMAN?



THE CHASE BEGINS ALL OVER AGAIN!

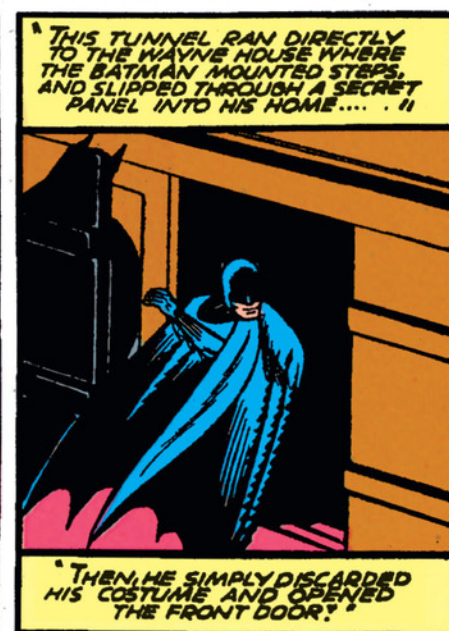
C'MON, BOYS - YOU'RE SLOWING UP!

(PUFF-PUFF) A GRASSHOPPER'S GOT NOTHIN' ON THAT GUY. HE SURE DOES HOP AROUND! (PUFF-PUFF)



"PERHAPS YOU ARE WONDERING NOW THE BATMAN MANAGED TO GET INTO THE HOUSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY THE THUGS?... IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE..... "

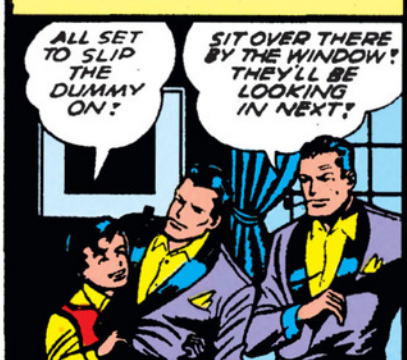
"WHEN THE BATMAN DARTED INTO THE BARN, HE RAISED A CLEVERLY HIDDEN TRAPDOOR WHICH LEADS TO A TUNNEL BELOW..... "



"THIS TUNNEL RAN DIRECTLY TO THE WAYNE HOUSE WHERE THE BATMAN MOUNTED STEPS, AND SLIPPED THROUGH A SECRET PANEL INTO HIS HOME..... "

"THEN, HE SIMPLY DISCARDED HIS COSTUME AND OPENED THE FRONT DOOR!"

"... AND PERHAPS YOU WONDER HOW THE BATMAN MANAGED TO APPEAR TO LEAD THE THUGS ANOTHER MERRY CHASE - WHEN HE WAS APPARENTLY READING A BOOK AS BRUCE WAYNE.... "



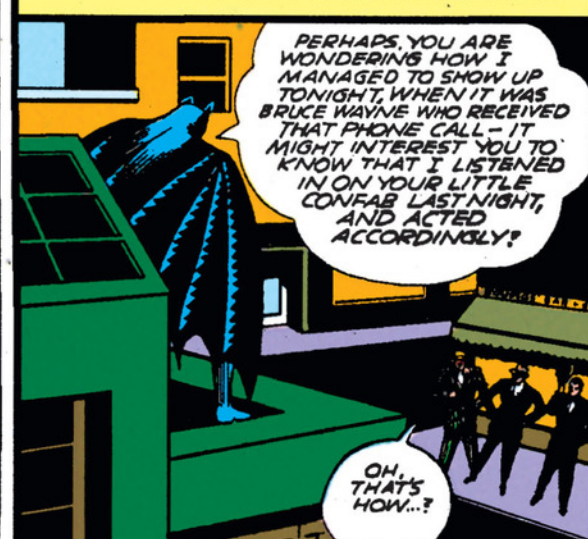
" EXPLANATION... AN ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED LIFE-LIKE DUMMY WHICH IS SLIPPED OVER ROBIN'S FORM.... "

"... AND WHEN ROBIN WORKS HIS HANDS IN THE SLEEVES, IT SEEMS TO THE OBSERVER TO BE THE ACTIONS OF BRUCE WAYNE HIMSELF? "



" WHILE ROBIN MANIPULATED THE DUMMY, BRUCE SLIPPED ON HIS COSTUME AND RACED THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND OUT IN THE NIGHT? "

MEANWHILE, THE ELUSIVE BATMAN THROWS A PARTING WORD AT STACY AND HIS THUGS.



PERHAPS, YOU ARE WONDERING HOW I MANAGED TO SHOW UP TONIGHT, WHEN IT WAS BRUCE WAYNE WHO RECEIVED THAT PHONE CALL - IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT I LISTENED IN ON YOUR LITTLE CONFAB LAST NIGHT, AND ACTED ACCORDINGLY!

OH, THAT'S HOW...?

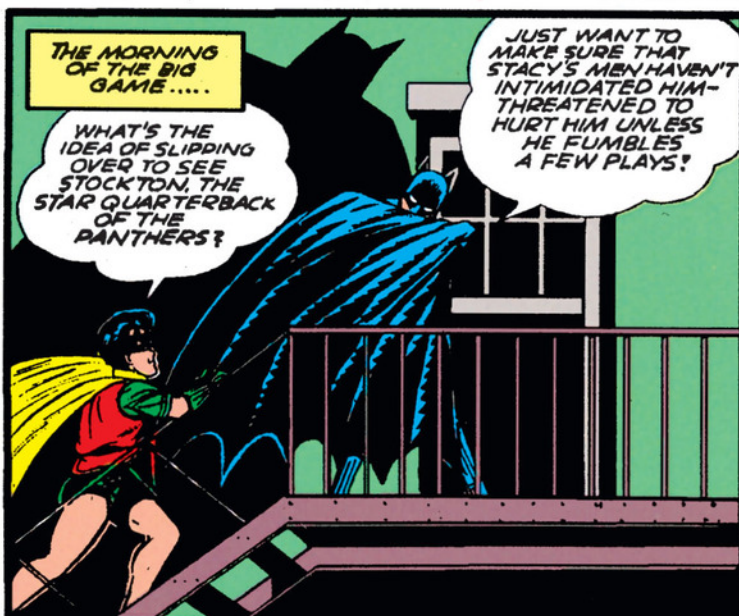
THAT VERY NIGHT, STACY AND HIS MEN ARE WEARY AND FOOTSORE AFTER A FUTILE EFFORT TO CATCH THE BATMAN!



WELL, STACY, ARE YA CONVINCED NOW THAT BRUCE WAYNE AIN'T THE BATMAN?

YEAH-YEAH! - BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM GOING AHEAD WITH MY PLANS! I'VE GOT TOO MUCH MONEY BET TO STOP NOW!

OKAY? WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!



THE MORNING OF THE BIG GAME....

WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SLIPPING OVER TO SEE STOCKTON, THE STAR QUARTERBACK OF THE PANTHERS?

JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT STACY'S MEN HAVEN'T INTIMIDATED HIM - THREATENED TO HURT HIM UNLESS HE FUMBLES A FEW PLAYS!

BUT WHEN THEY STEP INSIDE ..



BARTON? STOCKTON'S ROOM-MATE... STABBED TO DEATH!...

AND STOCKTON'S NOT AROUND? THEY'VE KIDNAPPED HIM? STACY'S MEN HAVE KIDNAPPED HIM TO KEEP HIM FROM PLAYING?

SEATING HIMSELF BEFORE A MIRROR, THE BATMAN PROPS UP A PICTURE OF THE KIDNAPPED STAR..



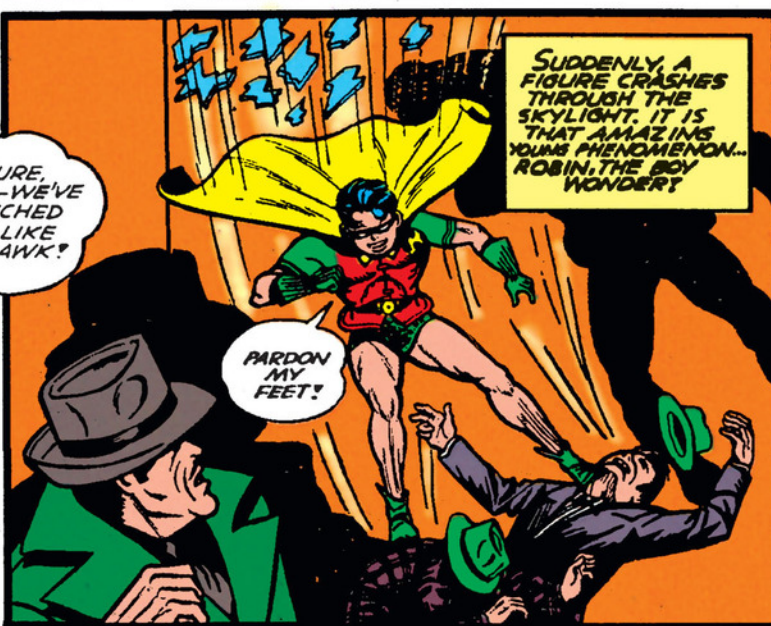
SAY - - WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

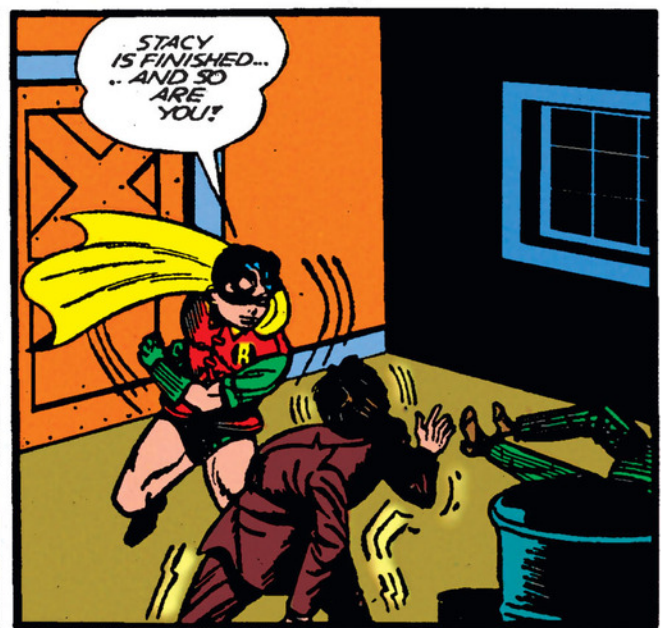
STOCKTON'S MY HEIGHT AND ABOUT MY BUILD. I THINK IT WILL WORK!

DEFT FINGERS APPLY MAKEUP FROM THE UTILITY BELT.. SLOWLY MOULD AND CHANGE THE CONTOURS OF THE FACE...



MMM! NOSE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE PUTTY TO GET THAT SHAPE!





ROBIN FREES STOCKTON...

DON'T TELL ME A KID LIKE YOU TOOK CARE OF THESE TOUGHS?!



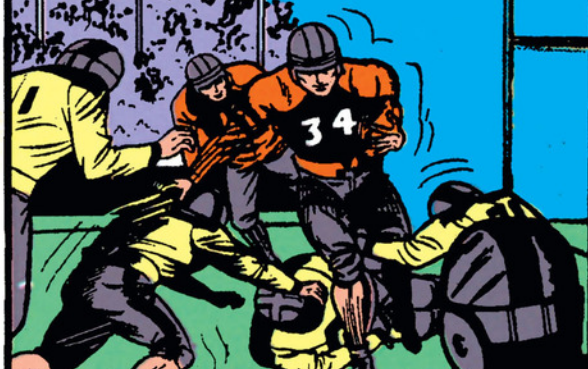
ROBIN TELLS STOCKTON HOW THE BATMAN HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE AT THE BIG GAME..

TOOK MY PLACE? ..I'LL BET HE'S FUMBLING EVERY PLAY! I BETTER GET BACK THERE AND STOP HIM IN TIME!

YOU GO THERE ALONE. I WANT TO DELIVER THESE MUGGS TO JAIL. ONE OF THEM IS GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF YOUR ROOM-MATE!



MEANWHILE AT THE STADIUM, THE TWO TEAMS HAVE BEEN BATTLING, WITH EITHER SIDE FAILING TO SCORE



THE RIVAL TEAM GETS THE BALL THE PLAY IS PUT INTO ACTION THE QUARTERBACK THROWS A LONG PASS TO AN END



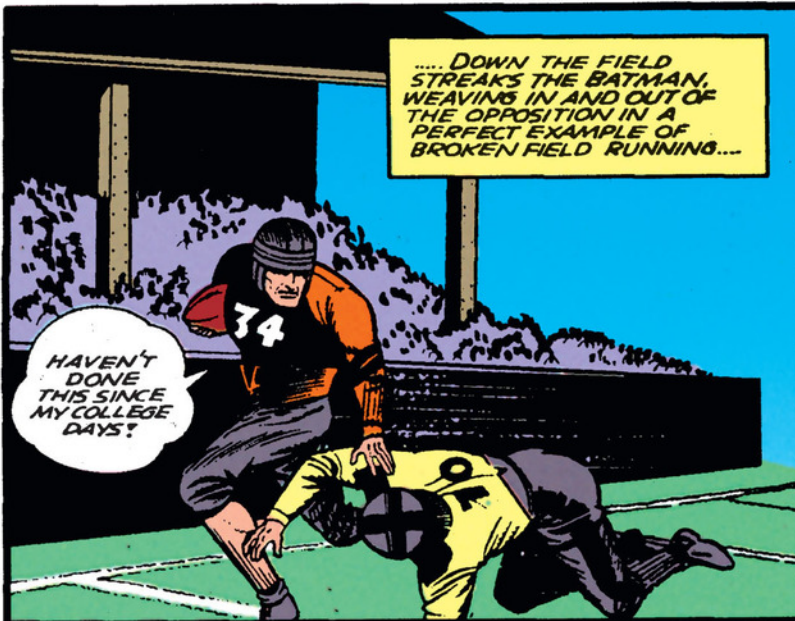
.... BUT A MAN SUDDENLY LEAPS UP AND LITERALLY PLUCKS IT FROM HIS HANDS IT IS THE BATMAN "STOCKTON"

..... A STIFF STRAIGHT ARM TAKES CARE OF THE END.....

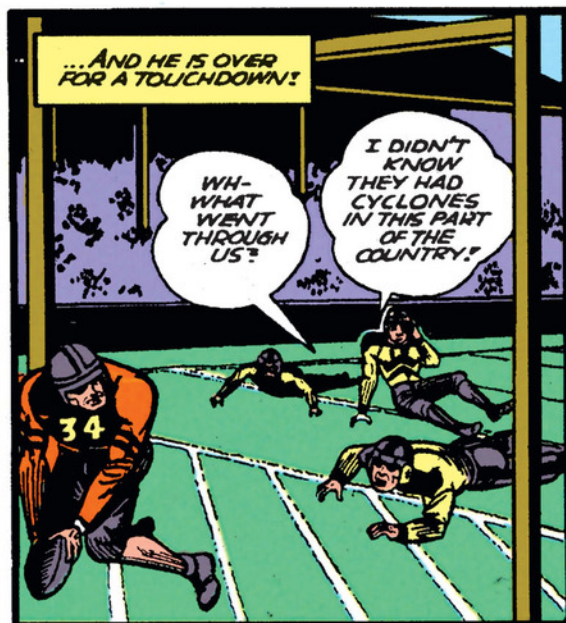
SORRY, BUDDY- I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE GOAL POSTS!

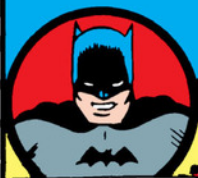


..... DOWN THE FIELD STREAKS THE BATMAN, WEAVING IN AND OUT OF THE OPPOSITION IN A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF BROKEN FIELD RUNNING....



HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE MY COLLEGE DAYS!





The **BATMAN**

No. 48



FEB.

Detective COMICS

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

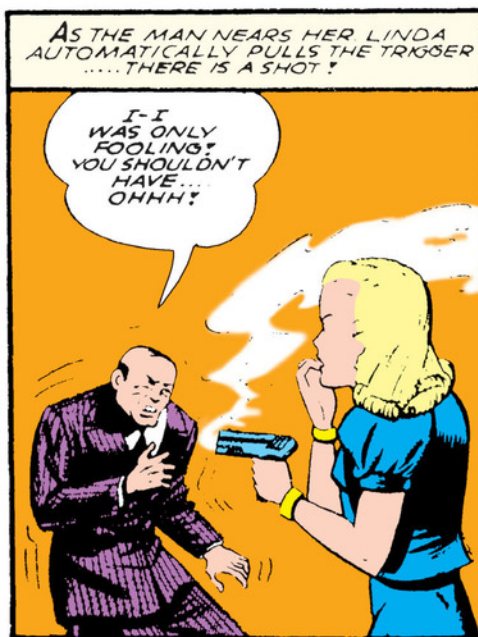
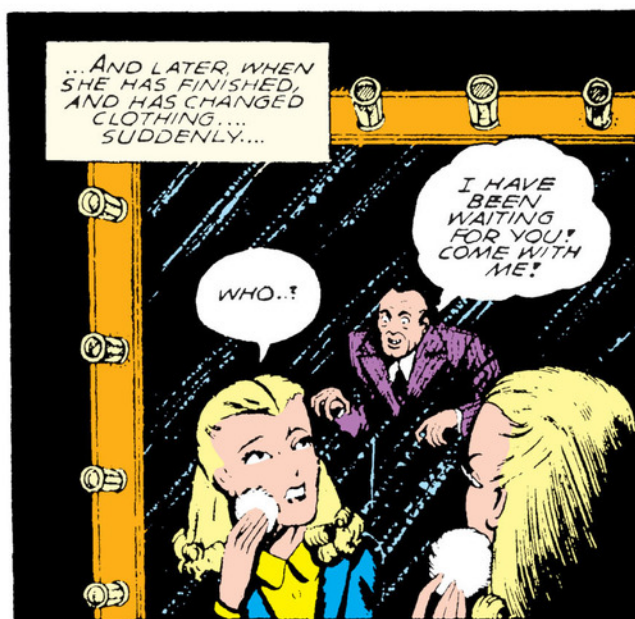
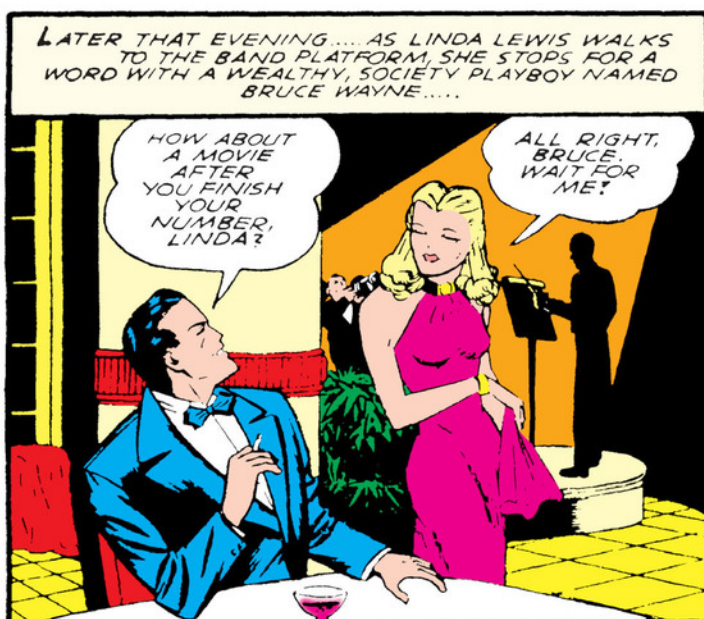
BY
JOE KANE

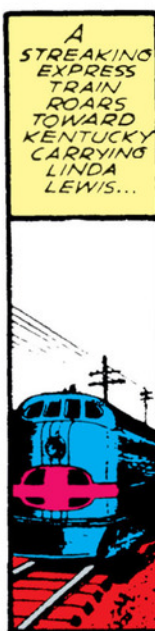
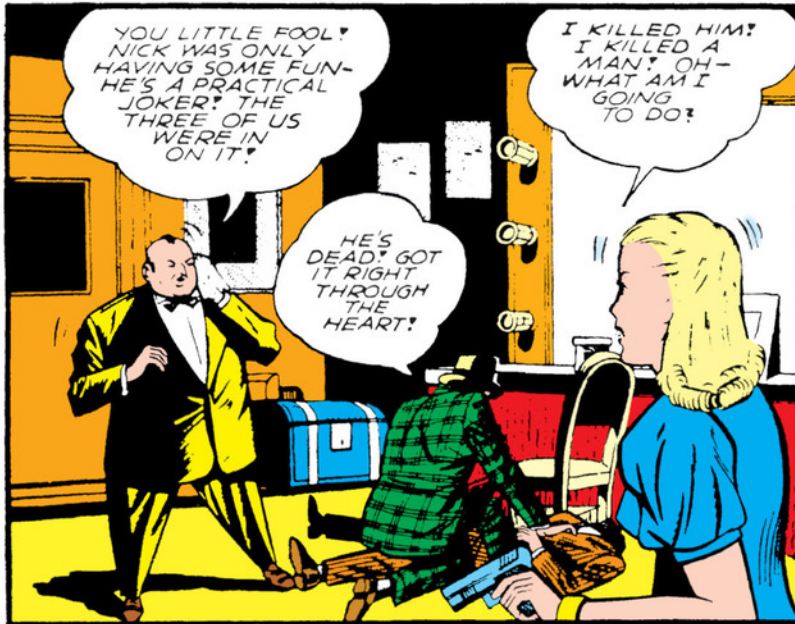
WHEN CRIMINALS
PLOT TO ROB
THE GREAT
VAULT HOUSING
THE NATION'S
GOLD RESERVE,
THEN IT IS THAT
THE CLOAKED
BATMAN AND
YOUNG, LAUGHING
ROBIN THE BOY
WONDER, STEP
IN TO NULLIFY
CRIME'S THRUST
AND DRAW BACK
THE CURTAIN
THAT VEILS
THE MYSTERY OF
THE SECRET CAVERN

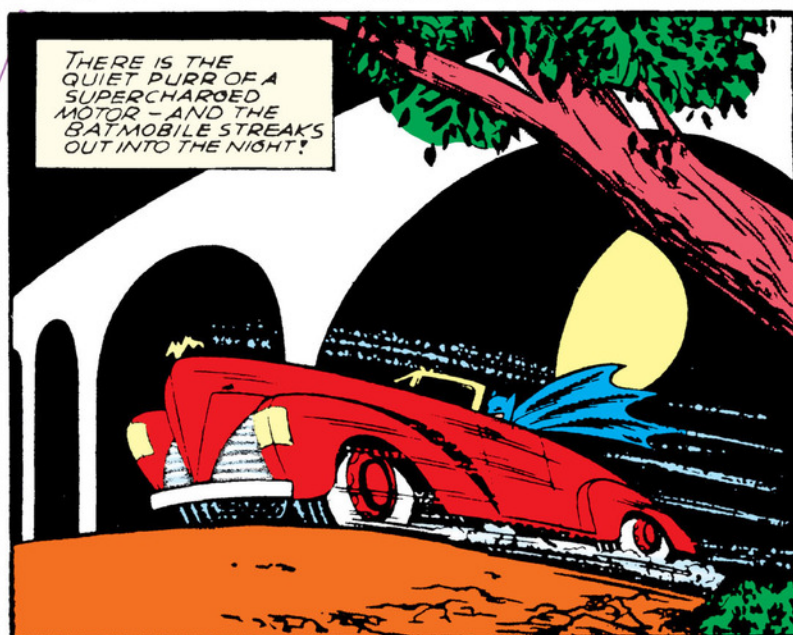
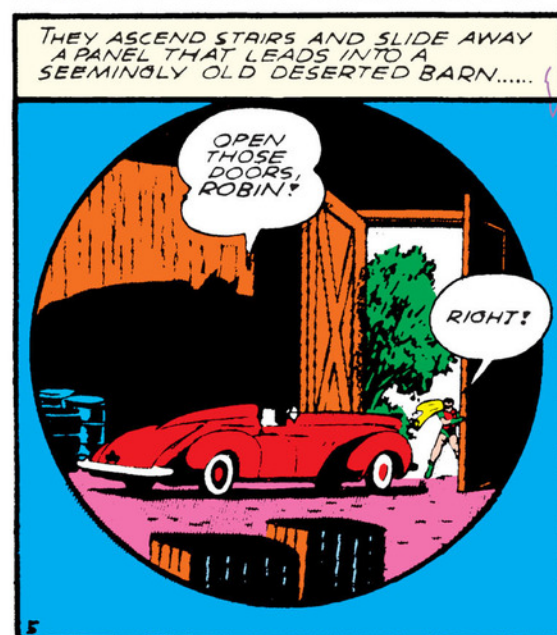
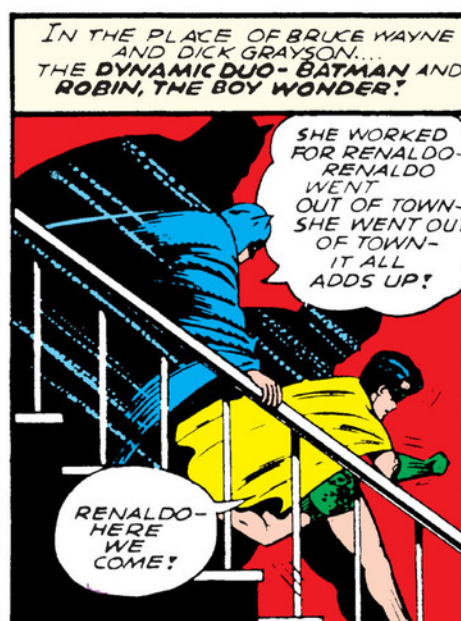
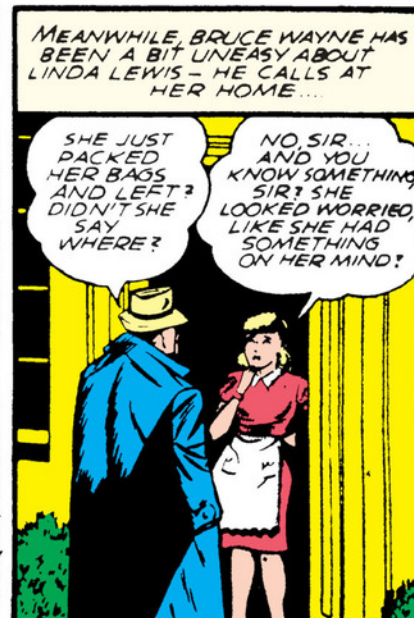
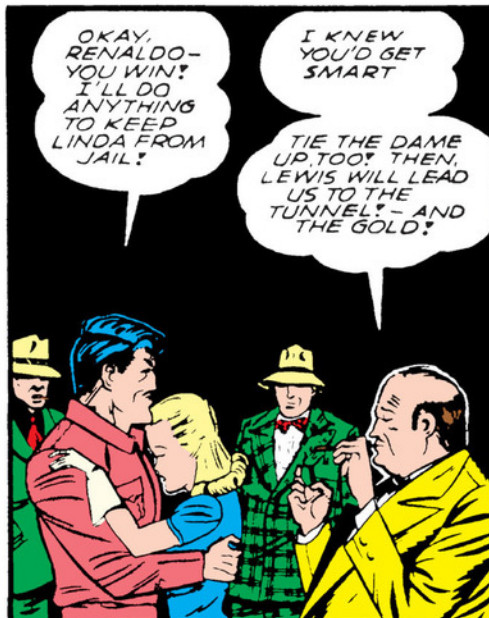
OUR STORY BEGINS IN KENTUCKY, WHEN
A MAN IDLY ROWING ON A STREAM,
SUDDENLY DRIFTS INTO A GASH IN THE
SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN.....

WONDER
WHERE THIS
LEADS
TO?

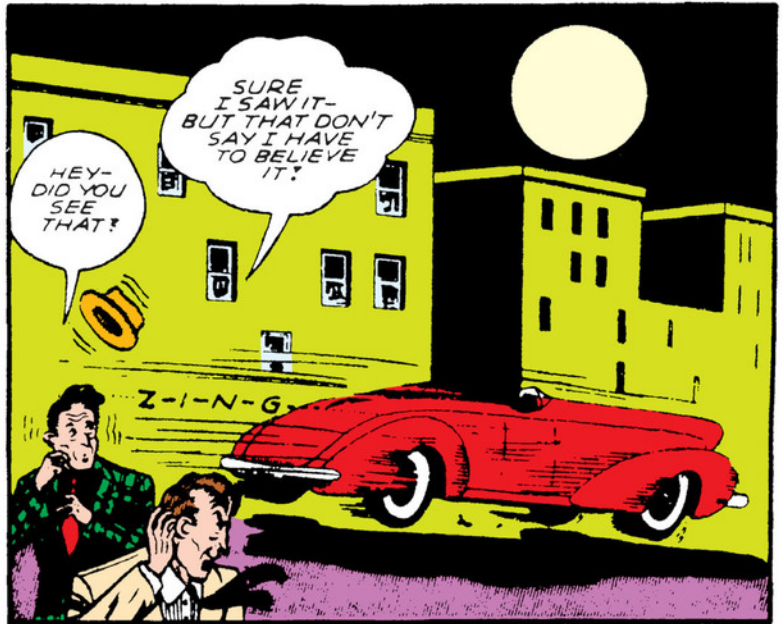
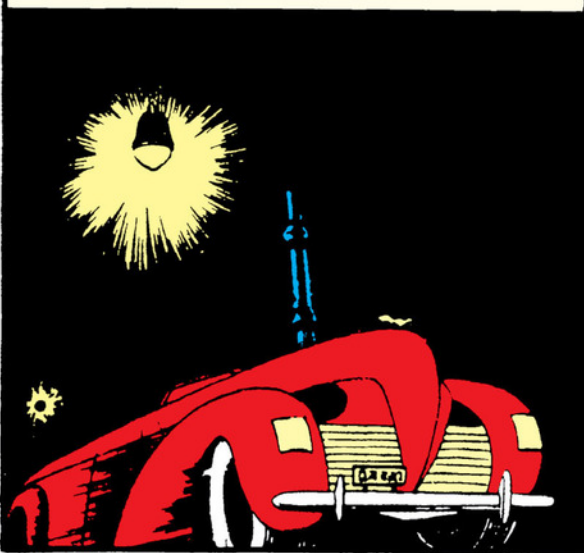








THE BATMOBILE FLASHES THROUGH THE STREETS WITH BULLET SPEED....



THE CAR COMES TO A STOP IN THE BACK ALLEY OF RENALDO'S APARTMENT HOUSE.....



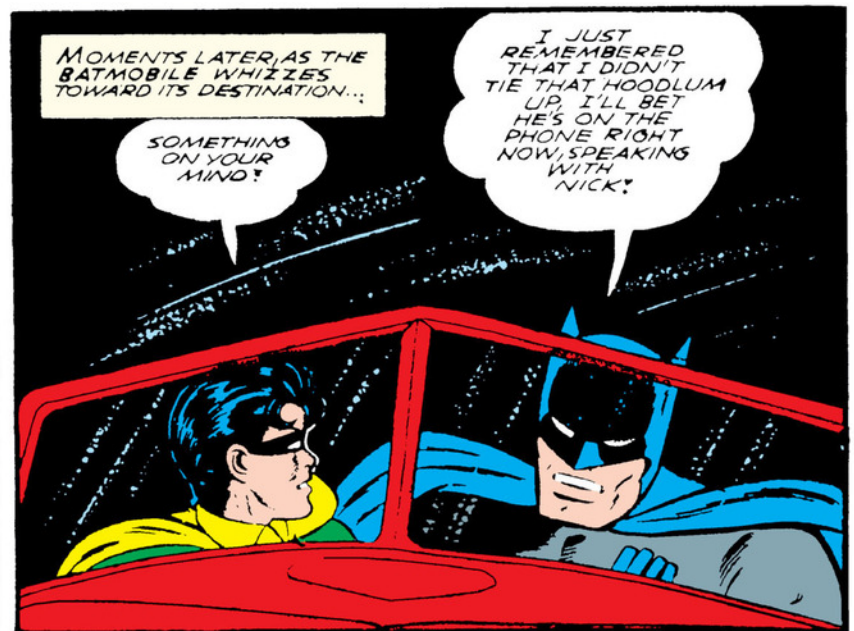
SWIFTLY AND NOISELESSLY, THE BATMAN MOVES UP THE FIRE ESCAPE!

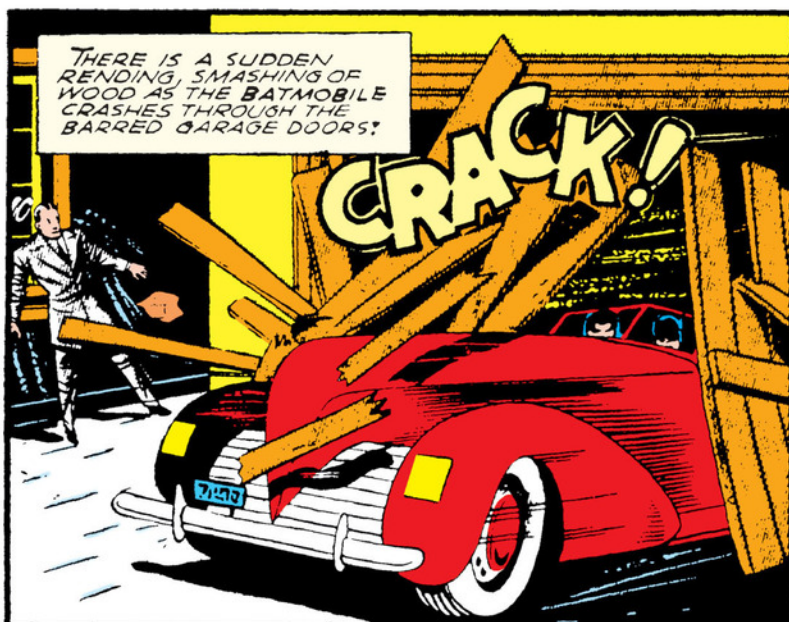


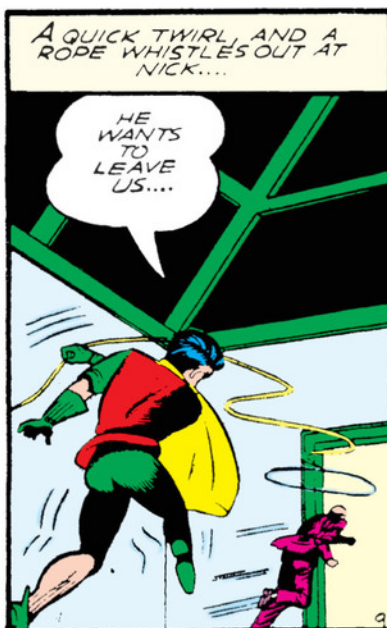
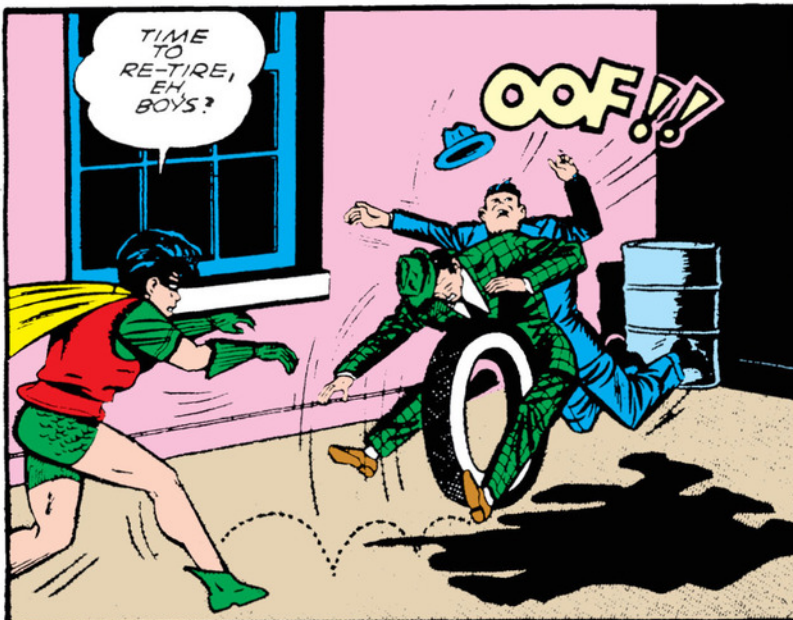
AS THE BODYGUARD HANDS UP, A SHADOW SEEMS TO CREEP ALONG THE FLOOR....

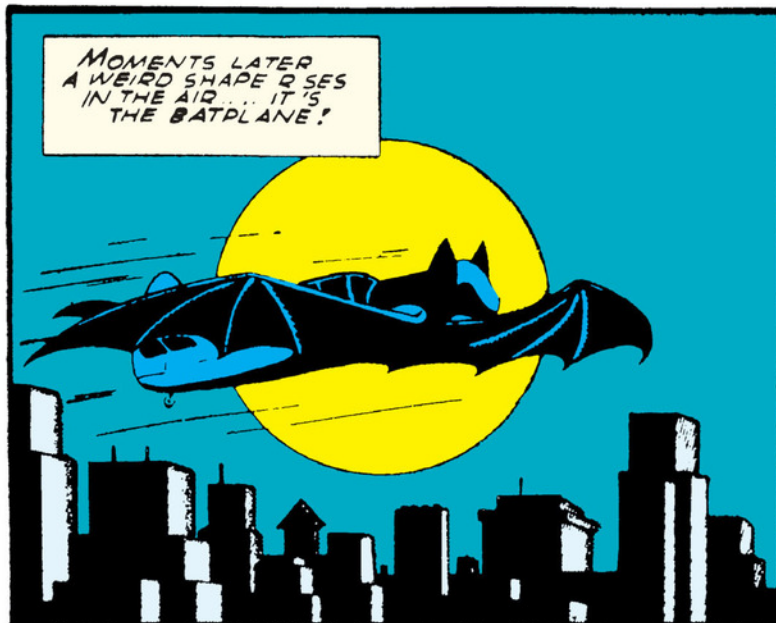
WHIRLING IN TERROR, THE THUG WHIPS OUT A GUN, AND FIRES.....







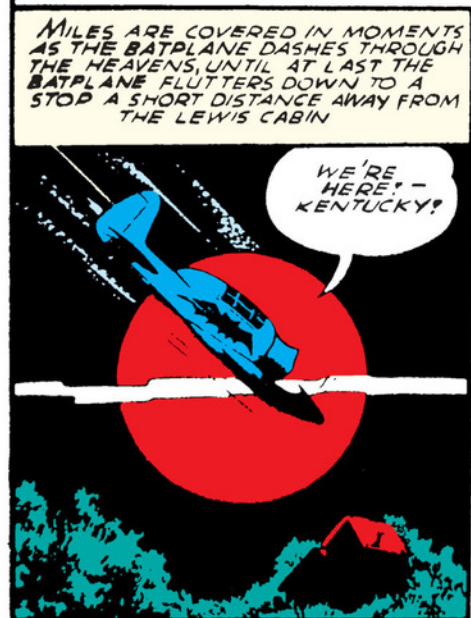




MOMENTS LATER
A WEIRD SHAPE Q SES
IN THE AIR... IT'S
THE BATPLANE!



LIKE SOME ANCIENT, FABLED
BIRD, IT WINGS THROUGH THE
SKY.



MILES ARE COVERED IN MOMENTS
AS THE BATPLANE DASHES THROUGH
THE HEAVENS, UNTIL AT LAST THE
BATPLANE FLUTTERS DOWN TO A
STOP A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY FROM
THE LEWIS CABIN

WE'RE
HERE! -
KENTUCKY!



LATER AS A GUARD STANDS
BEFORE THE CABIN, A
MUSCULAR ARM ENCIRCLES
HIS THROAT



INSIDE THE CABIN, A SECOND
GUARD STARTS AT THE SOUND
OF A KNOCK AT THE DOOR...

MUST
BE
BLACKIE?
WONDER
WHAT
HE WANTS?

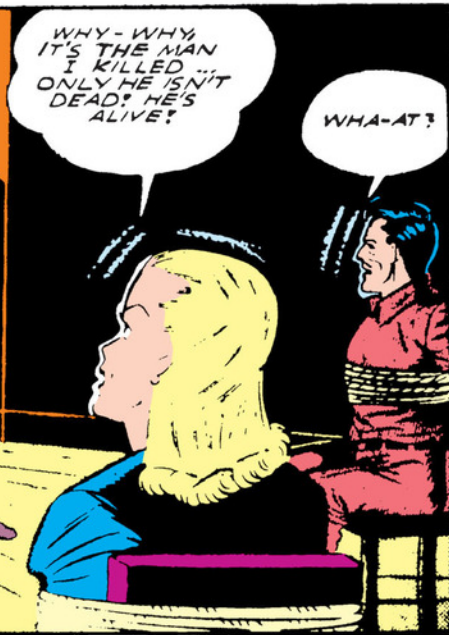


AS THE GUARD OPENS THE DOOR,
A FIST SUDDENLY WHIPS IN WITH
BLURRING SPEED

UGH!

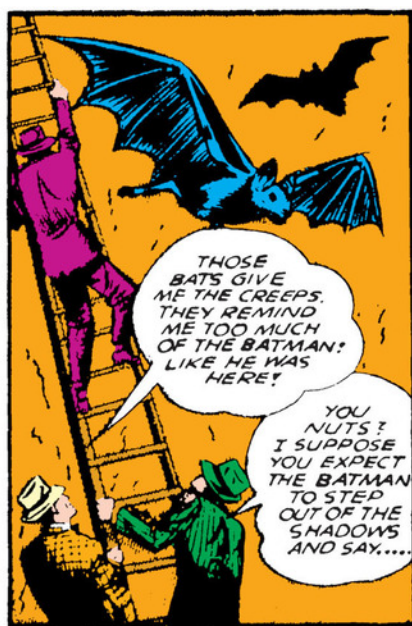
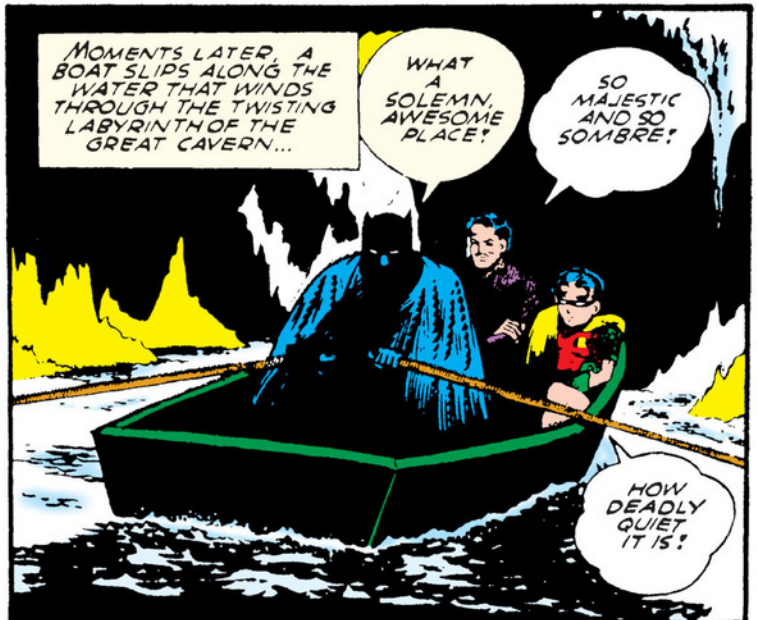
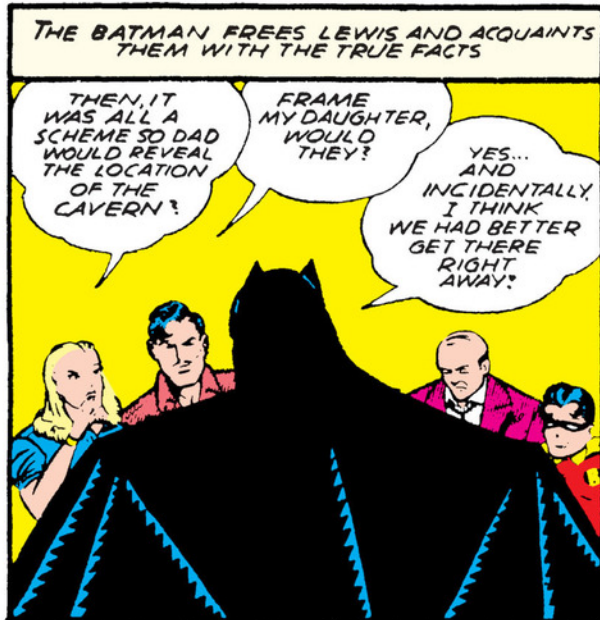


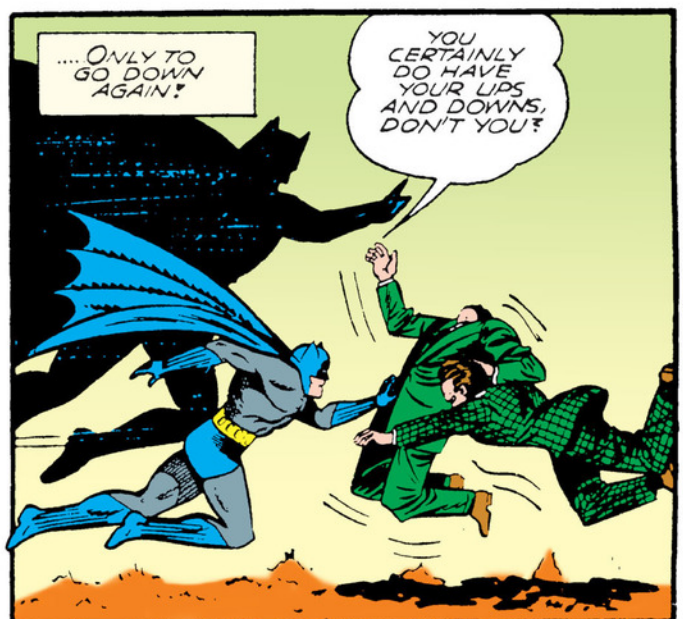
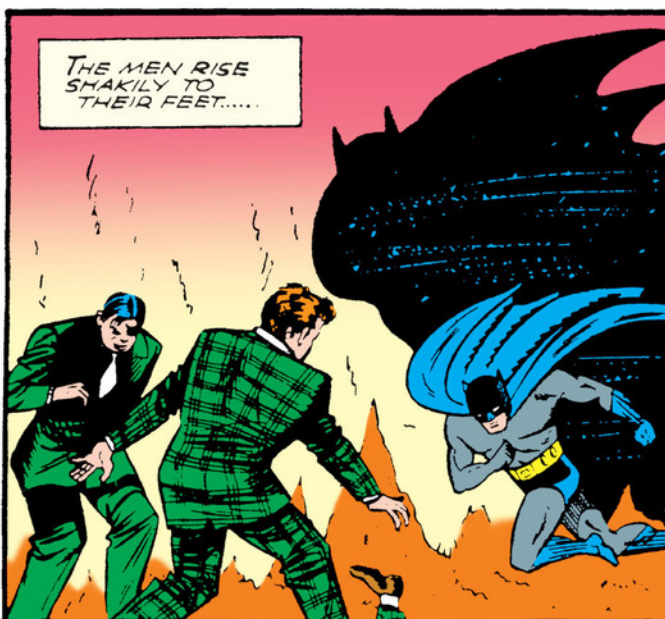
"HELLO"
TO THE
LADY,
NICK?

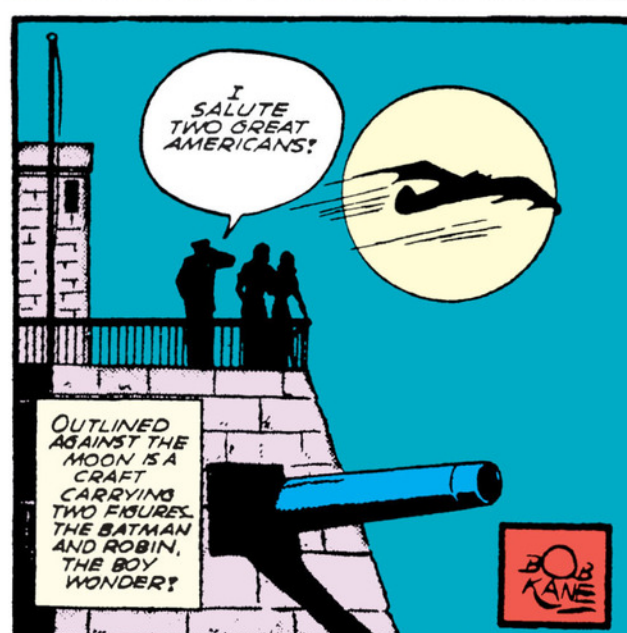
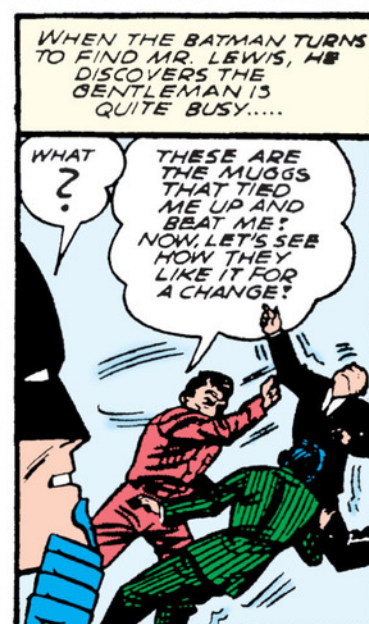
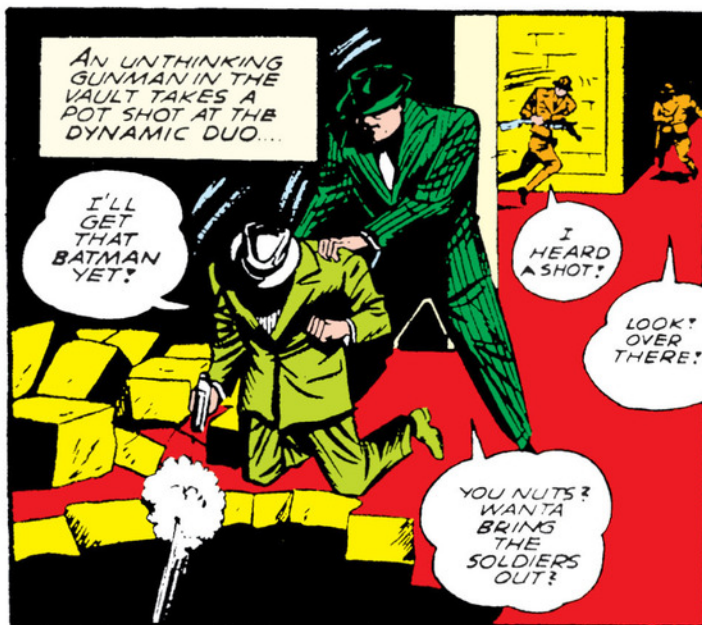


WHY - WHY,
IT'S THE MAN
I KILLED...
ONLY HE ISN'T
DEAD! HE'S
ALIVE!

WHA-AT?









The **BATMAN**

No. 49



Detective **COMICS**

MARCH

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

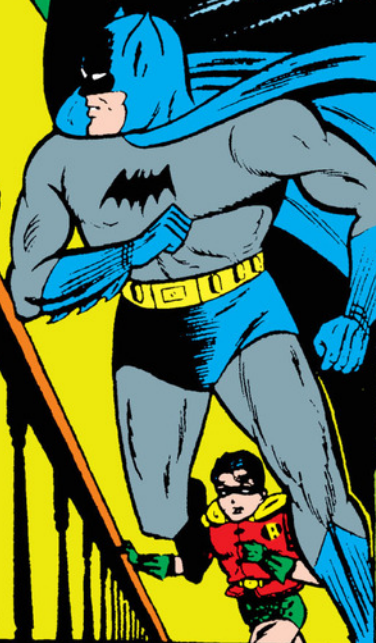
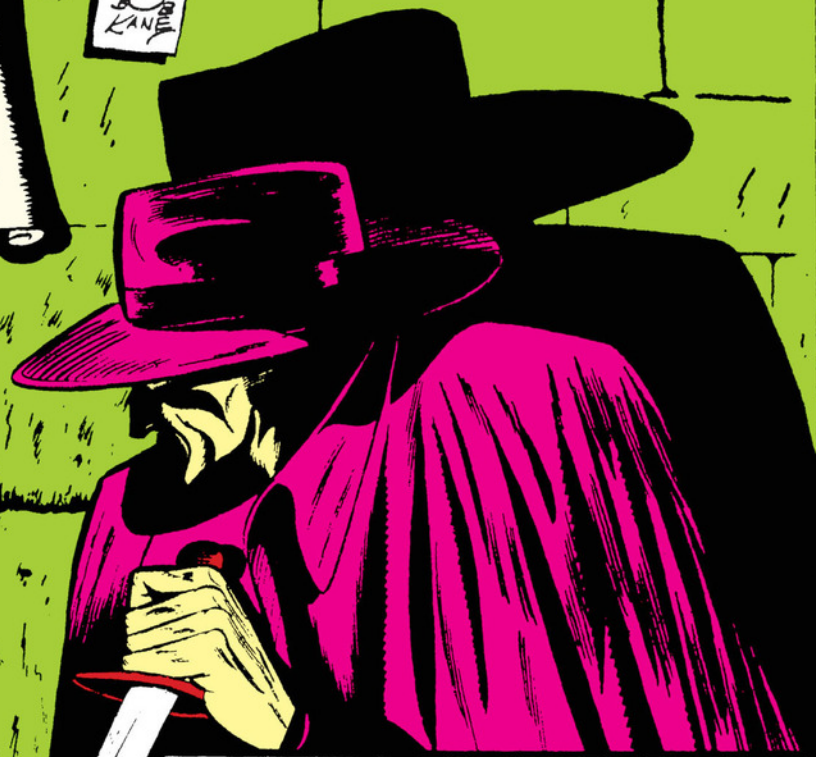


BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

MYSTERIOUS BEING OF THE SHADOWS, GARBED IN GARMENTS AS INK-HUED, AS NIGHT ITSELF, THE BATMAN FLITS AMIDST THE DARKNESS LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAD ADOPTED, WITH HIS YOUNG, LAUGHING AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER. HE MATCHES STROKES FOR STROKE, JUST AS HE WILL OF CROOKDOM, WITH THE THRUST OF THE CRIMINAL GENIUS WHO FEATURES IN THE CASE CALLED...
"CLAYFACE WALKS AGAIN!"

BY
BOB KANE



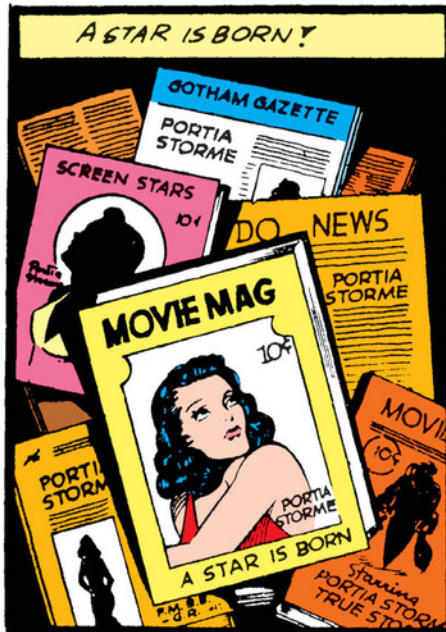
IT WAS NOT SO LONG AGO THAT THE CHARACTER ACTOR BASIL KARLO HAD GONE INSANE WHEN MOVIEGOERS HAD TIRED OF HIM, MAKING UP AS CLAYFACE, ONE OF HIS OLD HORROR ROLES, HE TRIED TO KILL THE STARS OF A REMAKE OF ONE OF HIS OLD STARRING PICTUREST WHEN THE FEMALE STAR WAS MURDERED BY HIM, JULIE, HER UNDERSTUDY, TOOK HER PLACE. FINALLY, THE BATMAN INTERFERED IN TIME TO STOP CLAYFACE FROM ADDING HER TO HIS LIST OF MURDERS...

MONTHS LATER, AFTER THE PICTURE HAS BEEN RELEASED... IN THE OFFICE OF BENTLEY, HEAD OF ARGUS PICTURES...

CHIEF, THIS UNDERSTUDY, JULIE WHAT'S HER NAME, GOT RAVE NOTICES! LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A STAR!

BUT HER NAME, GABBY-HER NAME! YOU'RE MY PUBLICITY MAN. I WANT YOU TO GIVE HER ANOTHER NAME-SOMETHING GLAMOROUS.





BUT
PORTIA
IS WRONG.

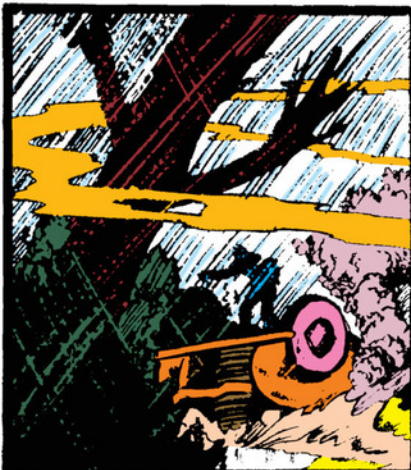
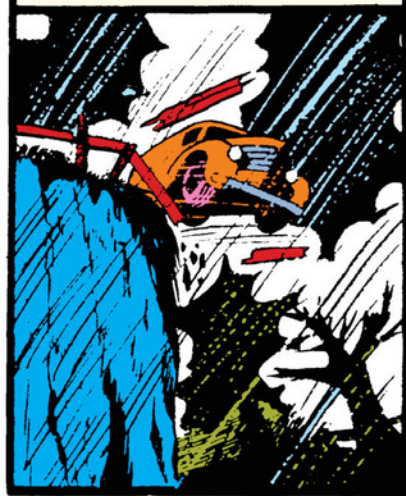
SHE
WILL
NEED
BRUCE
WAYNE
SOON....
BUT
AS HIS
OTHER
SELF...
THE
BATMAN?

THAT VERY NIGHT, AS
THUNDER YELLS OUT IN
BASS, AND LIGHTNING
GLITTERS IN THE HEAVENS,
A PRISON AMBULANCE
ROLLS SLOWLY ALONG A
WET ROAD...

WHO IS
THAT
GUY IN
THE
BACK?

BASIL KARLO,
THAT HORROR
MOVIE
ACTOR? WHAT
A NIGHT TO
BE TRANSFERRING
HIM TO THE
STATE ASYLUM?
SORTA FITS
DOESN'T IT?

AS THE RAIN RUSHES DOWN
WITH INCREASING FORCE,
THE TRUCK SUDDENLY SKIDS
MADLY ON THE SLIPPERY
ROAD AND PLUNGES OFF
THE EMBANKMENT...



THERE IS A CRASH - A SUDDEN
STILLNESS. MINUTES PASS.
THEN, A LONE FIGURE RISES
SHAKILY FROM THE
TWISTED MASS OF
STEEL AND WOOD...

A FLASH OF JAGGED LIGHTNING
MOMENTARILY ILLUMINATES THE
MACABRE SCENE, AND REVEALS THE
FACE OF THE SURVIVOR... BASIL KARLO,
THE PRISONER!



YOU
SEE?
IT'S ME -
KARLO!
AND I'M
FREE! FRE-EE
-EEE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE
OWNER OF A MOVIE MAKE-
UP SUPPLY STORE FALLS
BACK IN UTTER TERROR
AS A TERRIBLE FIGURE
NEARS HIM...



WHO-
WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?

THERE IS A STRANGLING
SCREAM, THE FALL OF A
BODY! THEN KARLO LOOKS
ABOUT, SITS BEFORE A MIRROR,
AND DEFTLY APPLIES
MAKEUP...

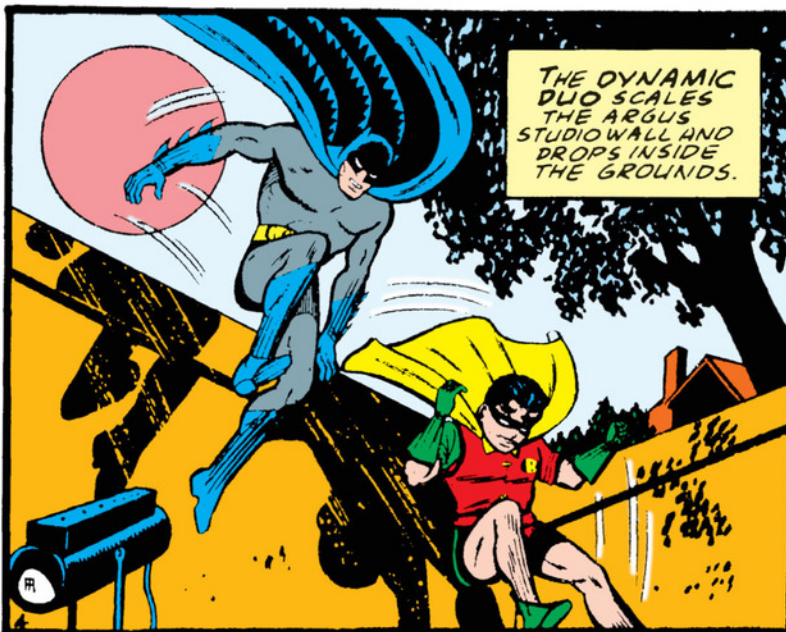
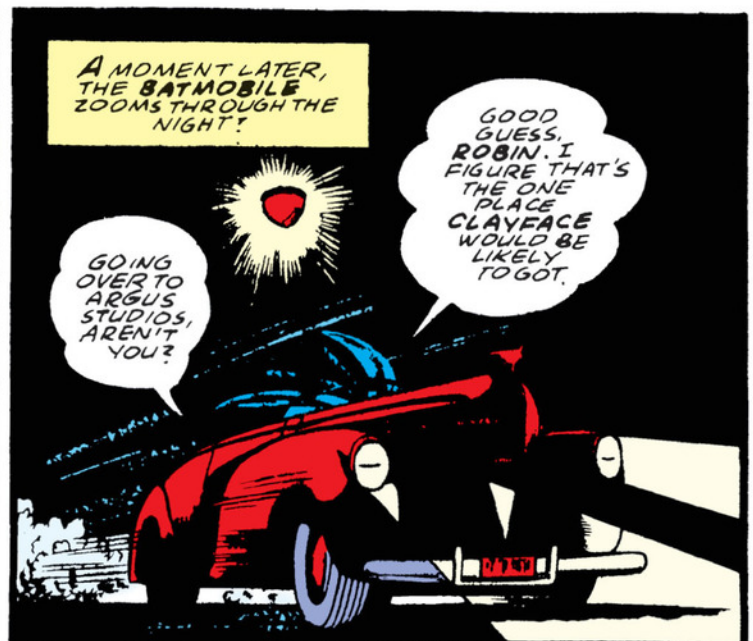


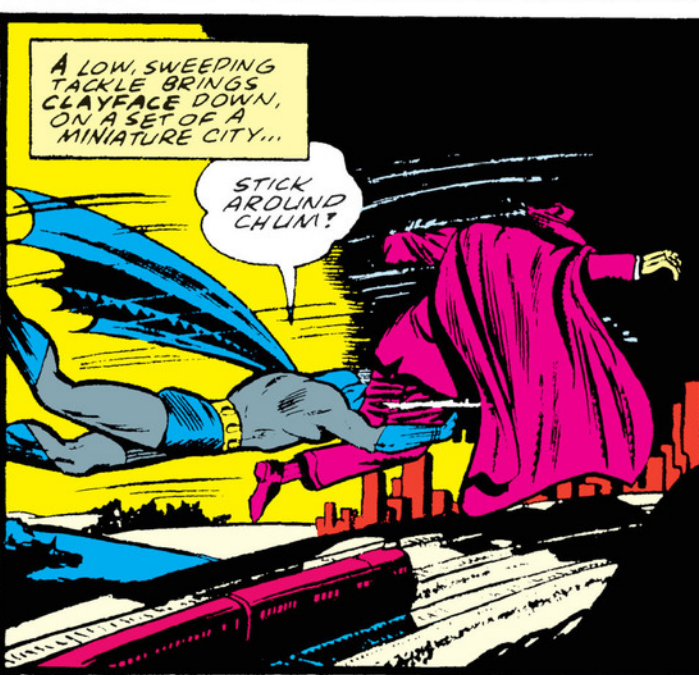
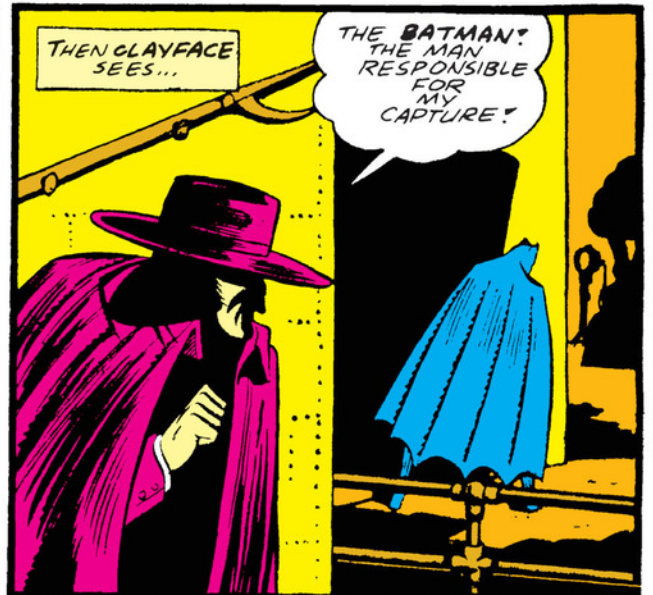
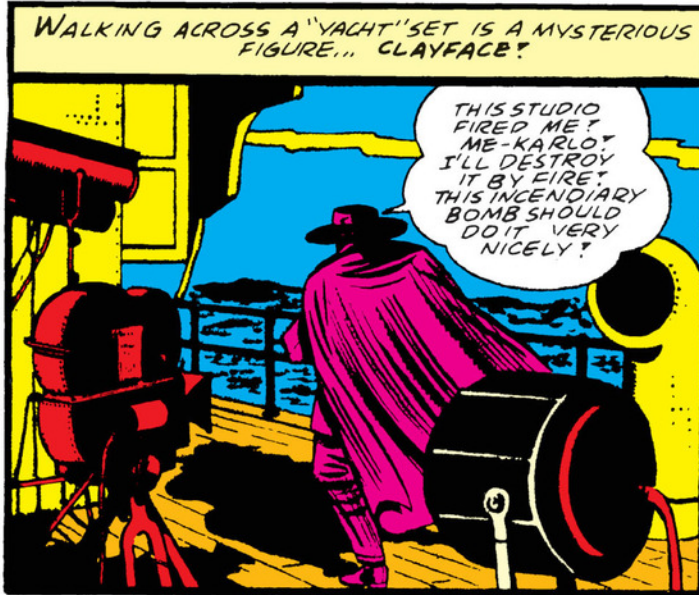
HA?
IT FEELS
GOOD TO
USE MAKEUP
AGAIN?

...FIRST THE WAY, THEN
CLAY... WIG... AND
FINALLY THE HAT AND
CAPE. IN PLACE OF THE
FACE OF KARLO... THE
GROTESQUE ONE OF...
CLAYFACE!

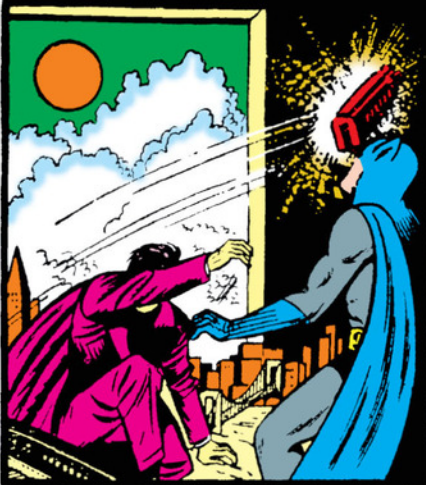
THE
WORLD
WILL ONCE
AGAIN
HEAR
OF
ME!







SUDDENLY, CLAYFACE SCOOPS UP A TINY RAILROAD TRAIN AND MANAGES TO CATCH THE BATMAN ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD...

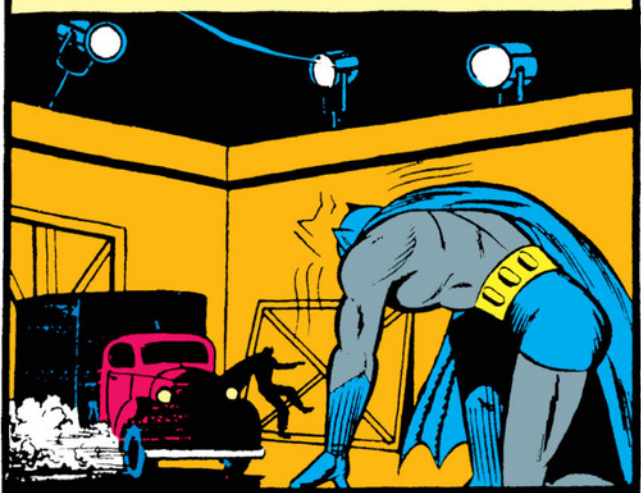


THE BATMAN DROPS!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF! ...THAT TRUCK- THAT'S THE ANSWER!



CLAYFACE SETS THE TRUCK SPEEDING AT THE BATMAN AND LEAPS OFF...



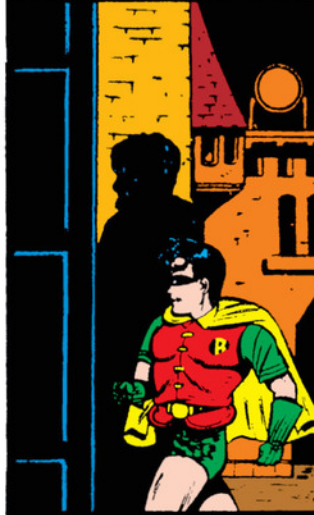
IS THE BATMAN DOOMED TO A MANGLED DEATH? WILL THE HURTLING MONSTER CLAIM THE BATMAN AS ITS VICTIM?

CLAYFACE, CERTAIN THAT THE BATMAN IS AS GOOD AS DEAD, WALKS THE STUDIO GROUNDS BENT ON MORE DESTRUCTION...

"IF THE BATMAN IS HERE, THEN THAT ROBIN BOY MUST BE AROUND! I'VE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HIM ALSO!"



IT IS AS IF FATE WERE DIRECTING THE SCENE, FOR ROBIN HIMSELF PASSES NEARBY.



I'M IN LUCK TONIGHT LOOK AT HIM! SO SURE OF HIMSELF! BAH! I'LL TAKE THAT OUT OF HIM!

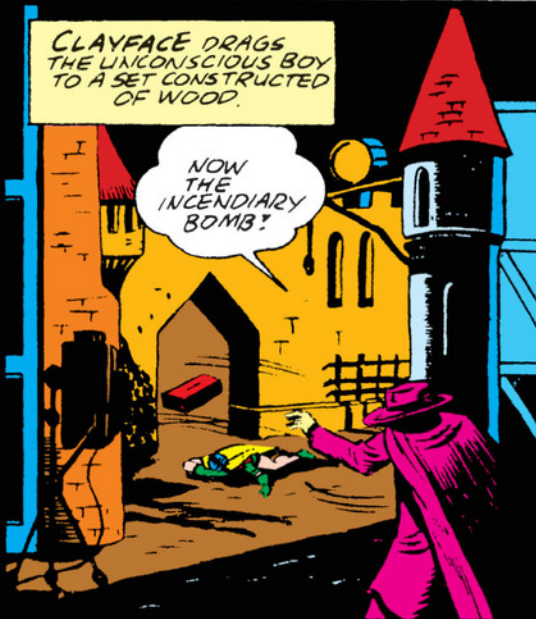


A PIECE OF SKY SEEMS TO FALL ON ROBIN'S HEAD! A LIGHT, WHITE AND PAINFUL, FLASHES BEFORE HIS EYES-THEN ALL IS BLACKNESS!



CLAYFACE DRAGS THE UNCONSCIOUS BOY TO A SET CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD.

NOW THE INCENDIARY BOMB!

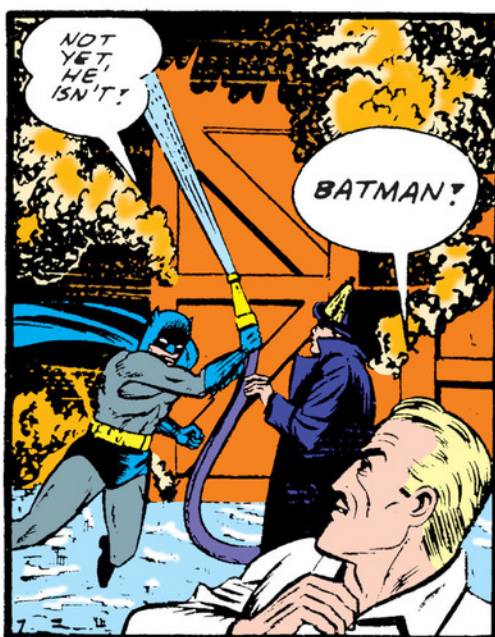
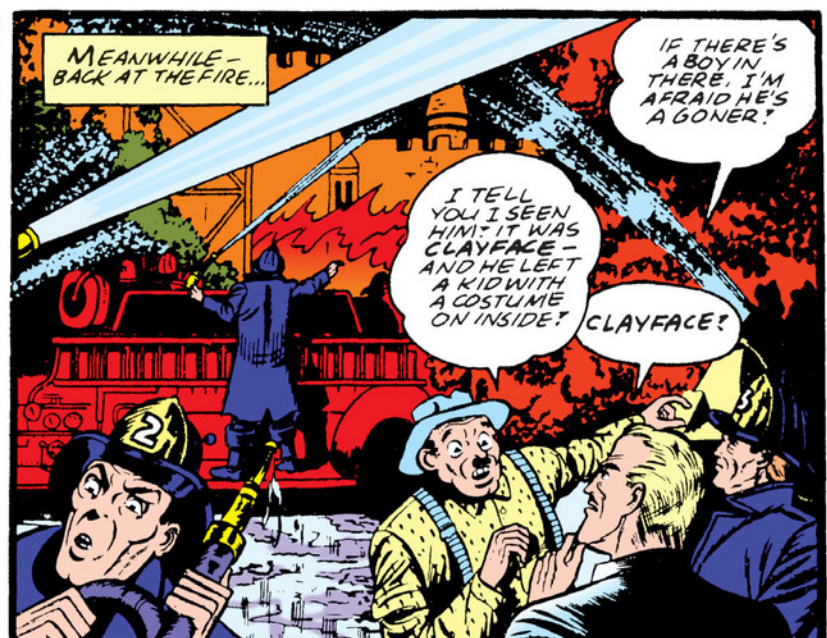
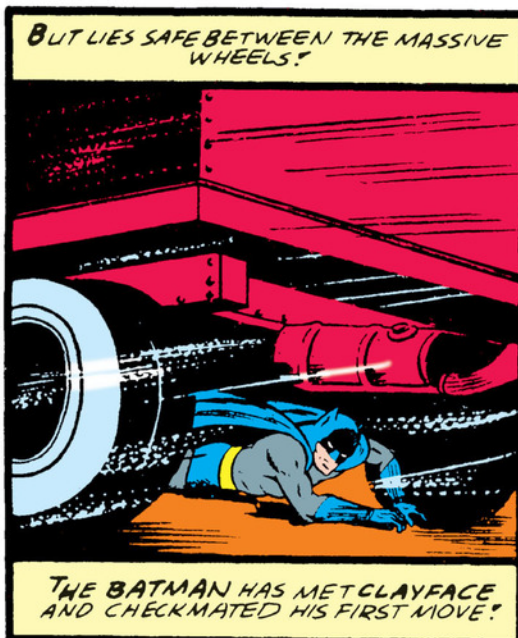
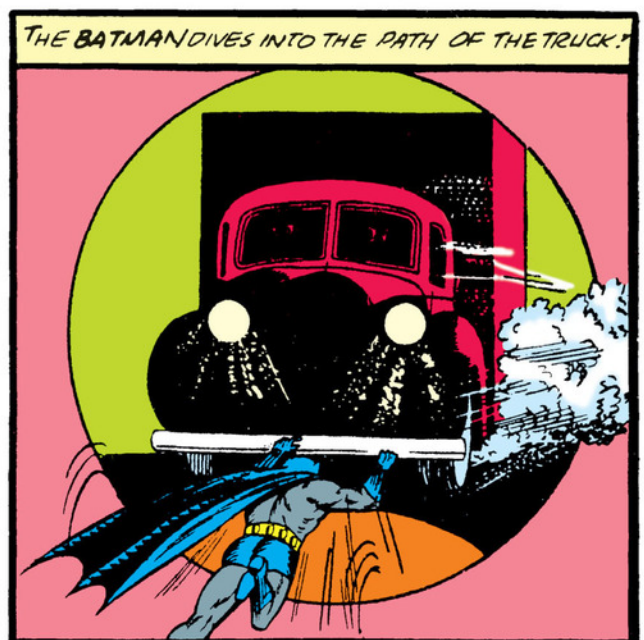
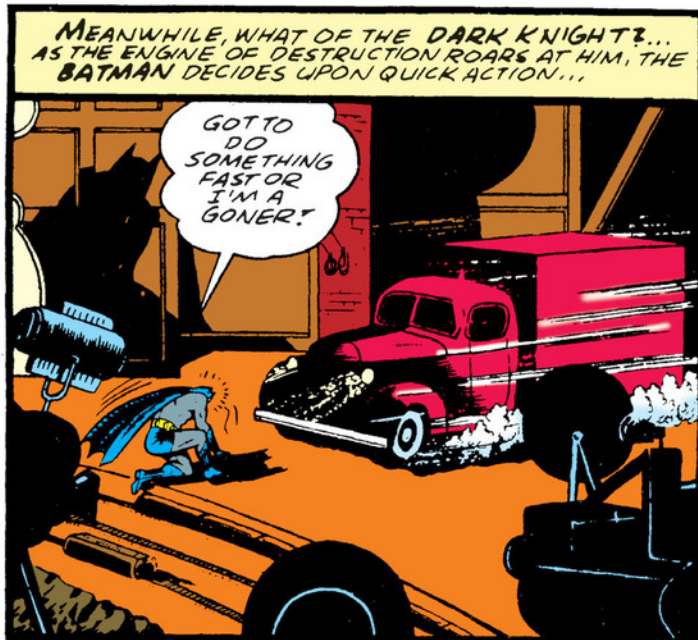


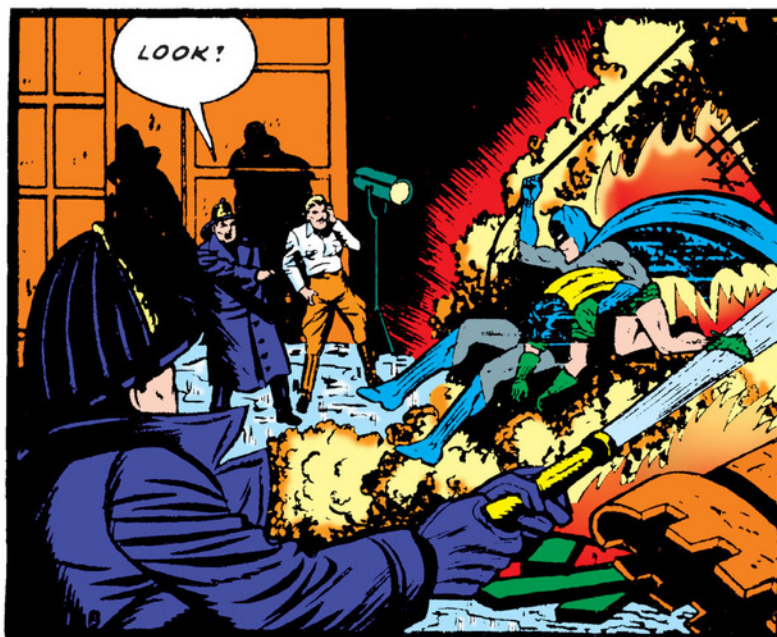
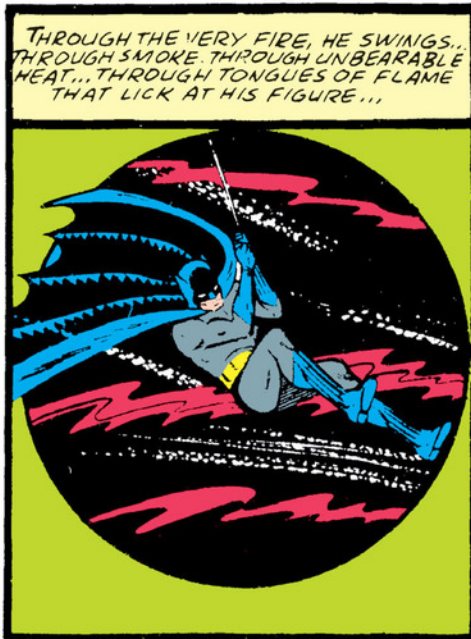
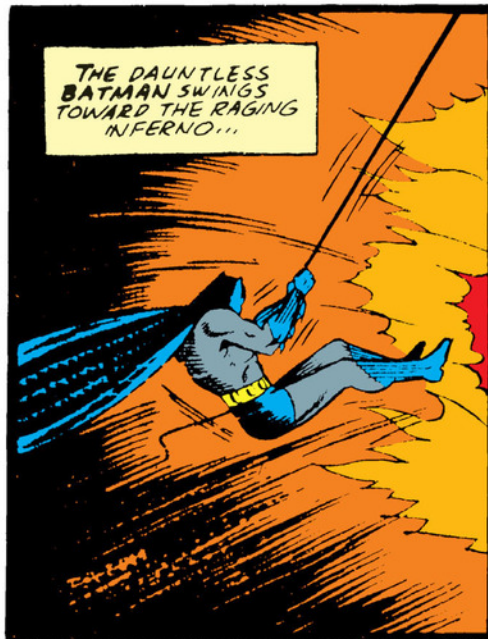
THERE IS A SHARP EXPLOSION, THEN-FIRE!

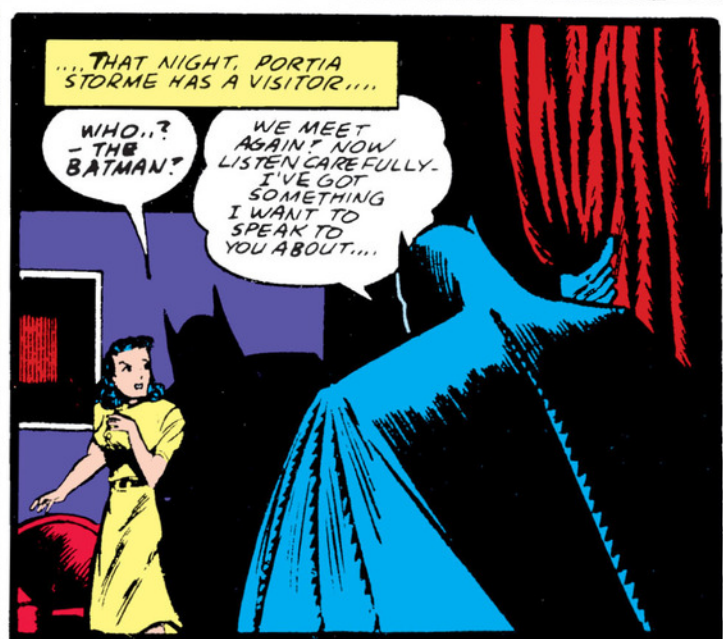
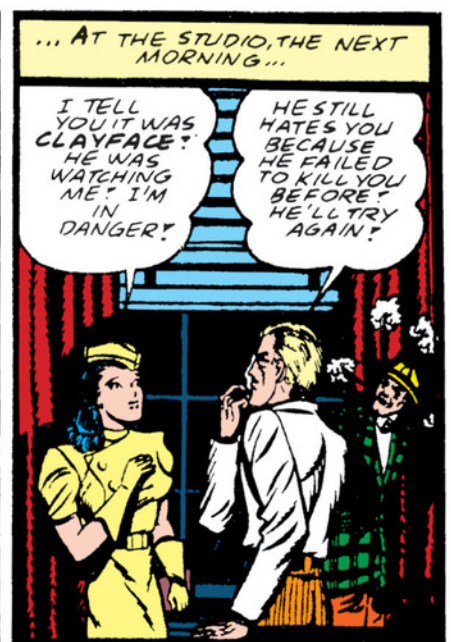
HA HA-BURN! - LIKE THE HATE IN MY HEART! BURN! HA HA HA!



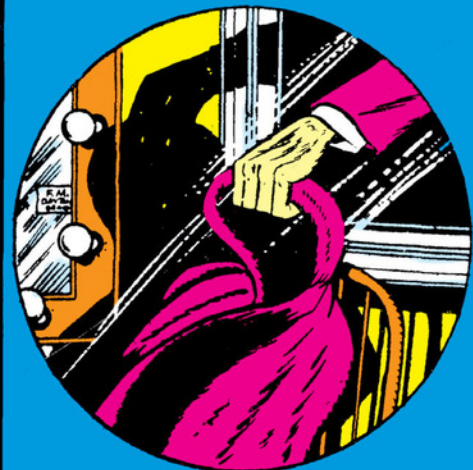
NOW IT IS ROBIN WHOM DEATH TAPS ON THE SHOULDER! IS THIS NIGHT TO SEE THE END OF THE DYNAMIC DUO?







EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, A HAND REACHES THROUGH A WINDOW IN THE STUDIO COSTUME DEPARTMENT.



ANOTHER FIGURE JOINS THE MANY EXTRAS THAT STROLL PAST THE GUARDS ONTO THE SET...

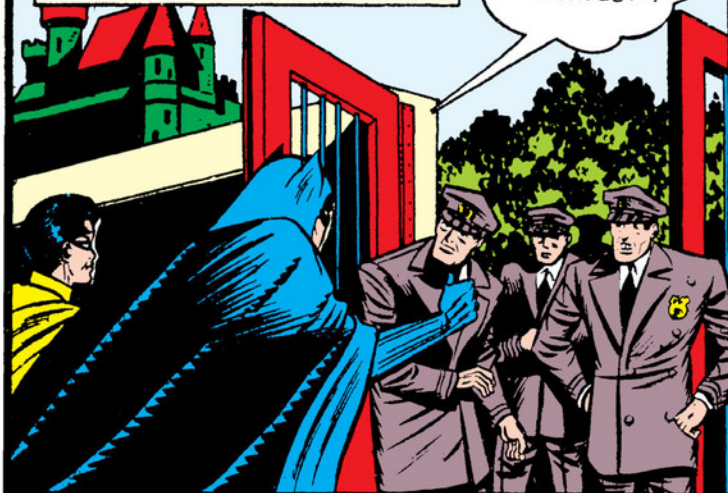
NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, PORTIA - WITH ALL THE POLICE I'VE GOT POSTED, CLAYFACE WON'T DARE TO SHOW UP!

...I'LL TRY NOT TO, MR. GENTLEY... BUT I HAVE A QUEER FEELING THAT HE WILL.



SUDDENLY, TWO MANTLED FORMS RACE TOWARD THE GUARDED SET... THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

LET US THROUGH! PORTIA STORME IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!



YEAH - FROM MASKED GUYS LIKE YOU?

LET'S GRAB 'EM, BOYS?

OKAY, BUDDY - YOU ASKED FOR IT!



I SAID, WE'RE GOING THROUGH!



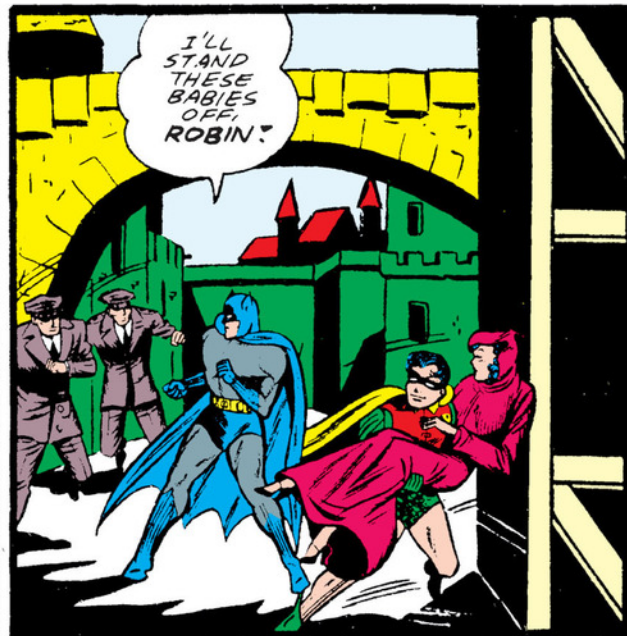
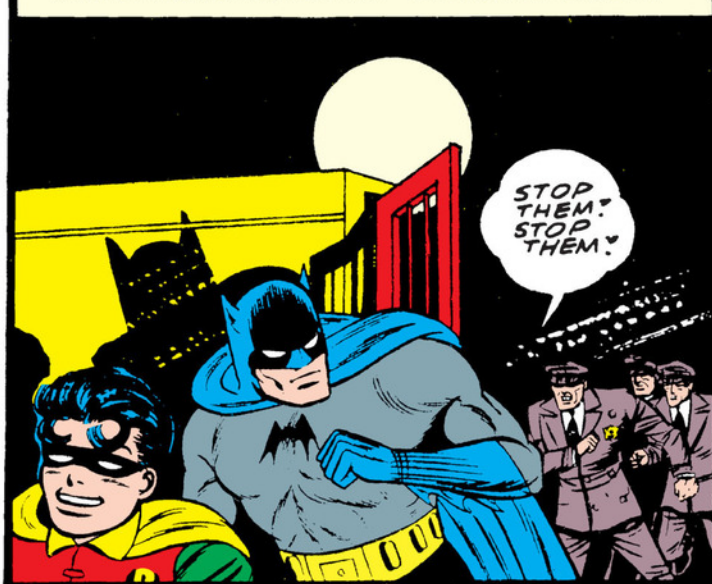
...AND HE'S NOT KIDDING!



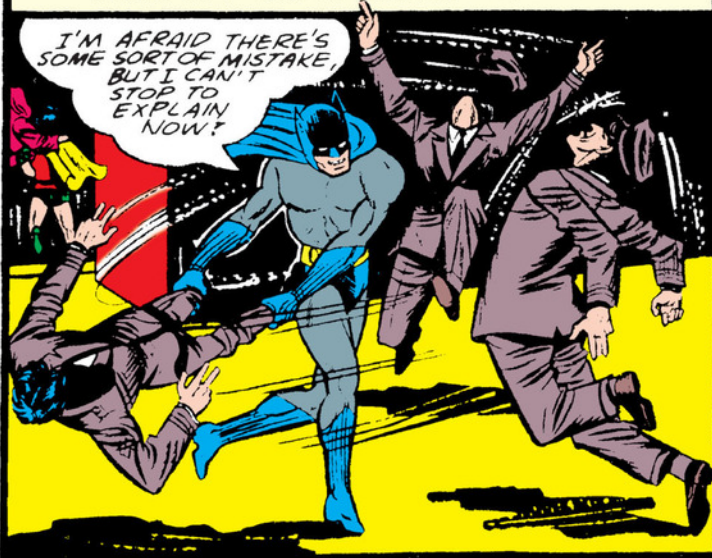
I REPEAT, GENTLEMEN - WE'RE GOING THROUGH!



ONTO THE SET RACES THE DYNAMIC DUO....



AS ROBIN DISAPPEARS WITH PORTIA STORME INTO A SMALL ALCOVE OF THE CASTLE, THE BATMAN HOLDS OFF THE ATTACKING GUARDS...



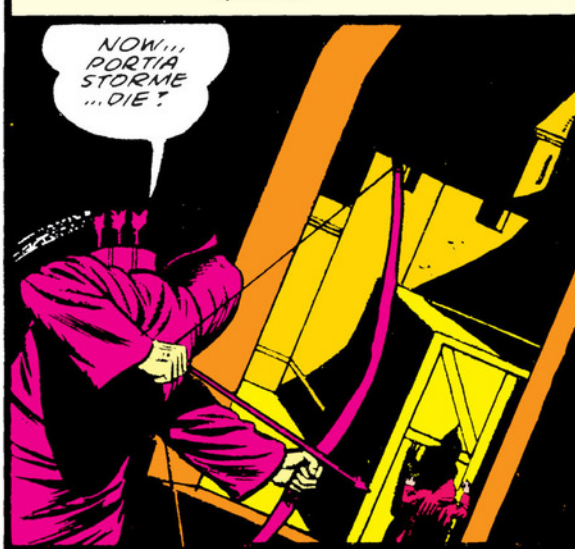
HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF GUARDS PROVES TOO OVERWHELMING, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO RETREATS....



UP IN ONE OF THE TOWERS, CLAYFACE GLOATS....

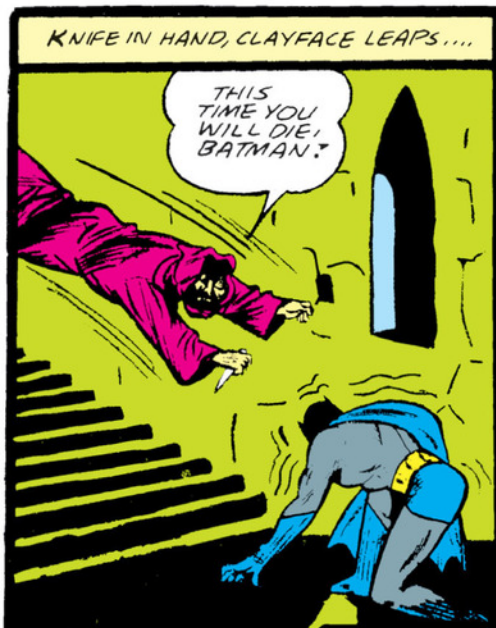
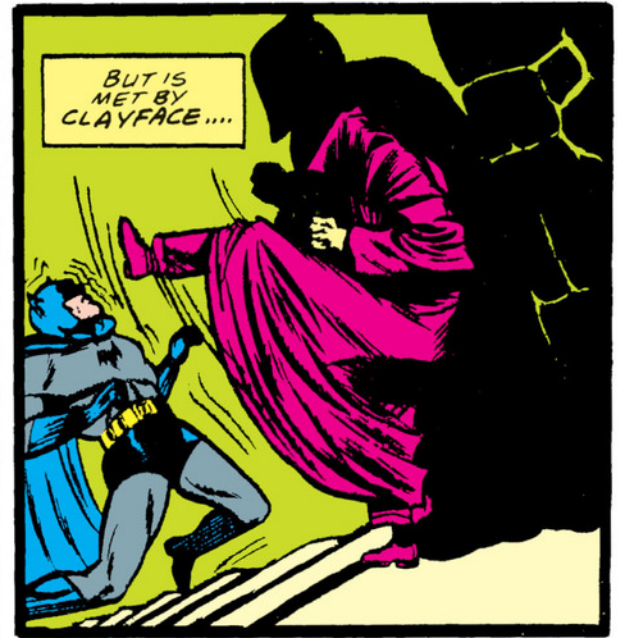
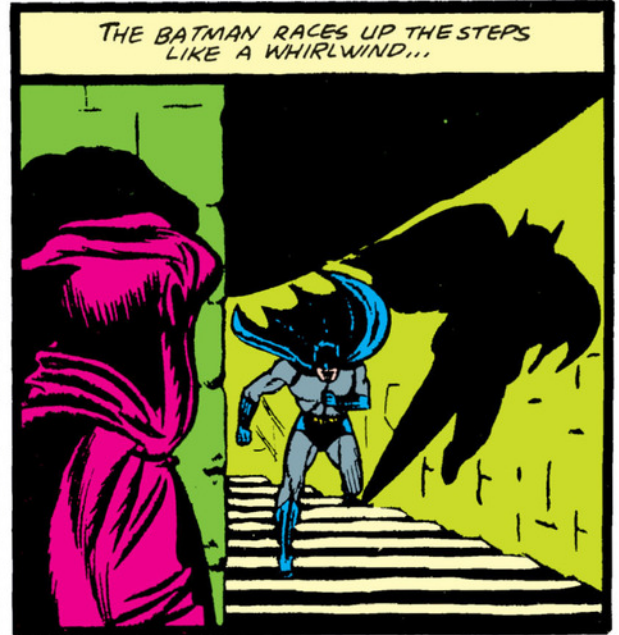


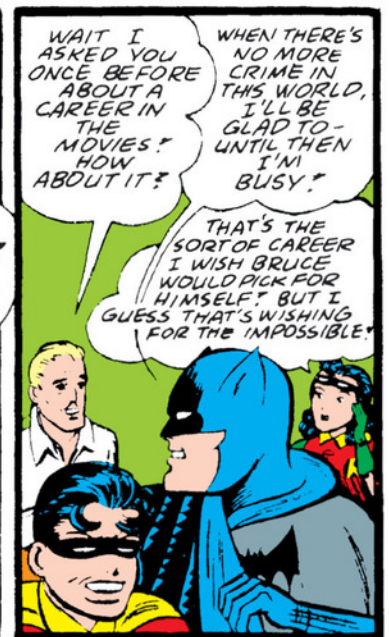
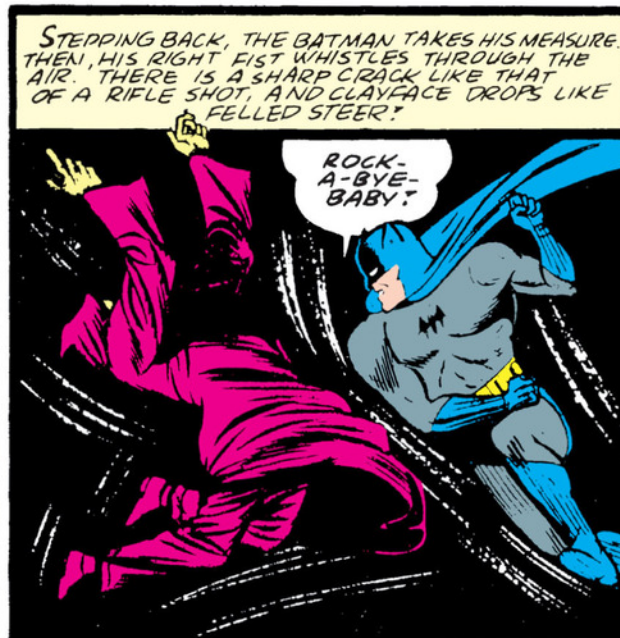
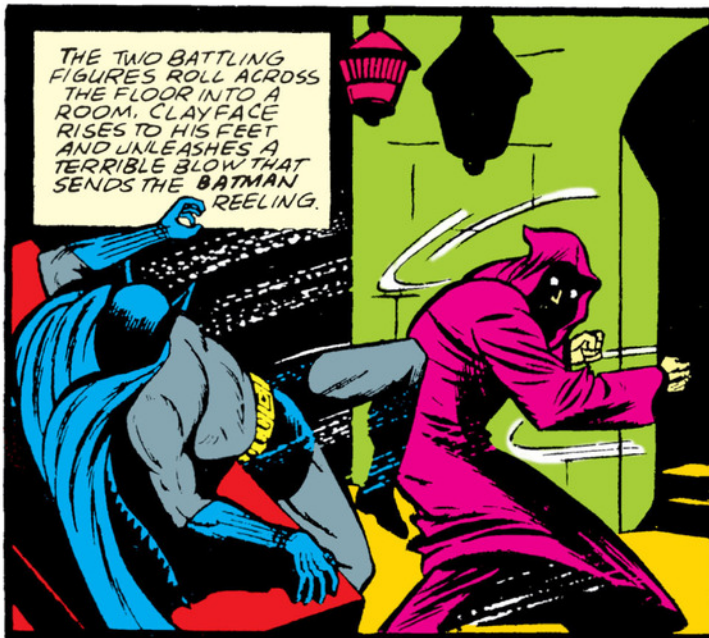
CLAYFACE GRIMLY PLACES AN ARROW INTO HIS GIANT BOW, DRAWS IT FULL BACK AND....



THERE IS A TWANG.. A HISS... AND THE SHAFT OF DEATH BURIES ITSELF IN THE BACK OF PORTIA STORME?









No. 50



Detective

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

APRIL

COMICS



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

TO MANY PEOPLE, THE BATMAN IS A BEING OF MYSTERY, AN EERIE POWER. YET, HE IS A MAN—A MAN WHO HAS DEVELOPED HIS BRAIN AND HIS MUSCULAR FRAME TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. A LIVING BEING OF THE DARKNESS, HE COMES AND GOES UNSEEN. HIS AIM IN LIFE—THE BLOTTING OUT OF ALL CRIME—ASSISTING THE BATMAN IS THAT PHENOMENAL BOY WONDER, ROBIN! IT IS THESE TWO WHO WILL SOLVE AND METE OUT JUSTICE IN.....
"THE CASE OF THE THREE DEVILS!"

BY
BOB KANE

ONE STILL NIGHT, AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN GHOST OVER THE ROOFTOPS, THEY SPY THREE BIZARRE FIGURES IN FLIGHT. WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE DYNAMIC DUO SWINGS DOWN TO DO BATTLE WITH THE STRANGELY-CLAD FIGURES.

AS ROBIN DROPS TO AID THE BATMAN, HE IS TACKLED IN MID-AIR BY A DEVIL-LIKE FIGURE, AND THE TWO PLUNGE TO THE ROOFTOP BELOW.....

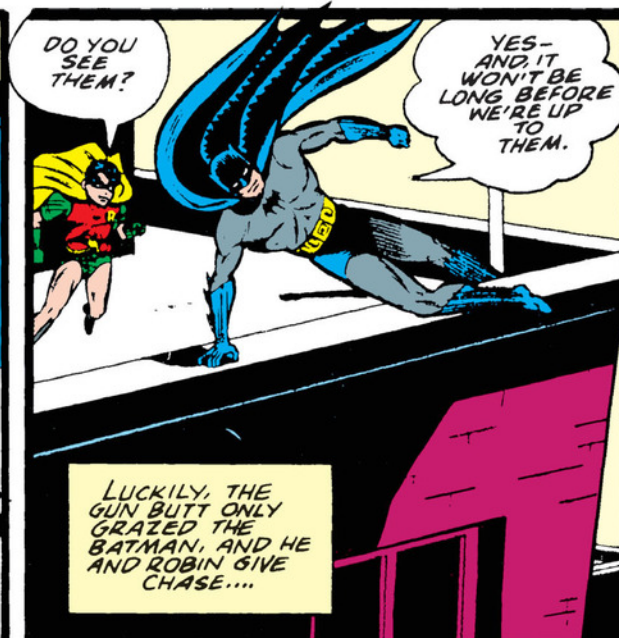
AS ROBIN STARTS TO RISE SOMEWHAT UNSTEADILY TO HIS FEET, THE DEVIL-GARBED ATTACKER PUNISHES HIM CRUELLY WITH A WRESTLER'S TRICK....



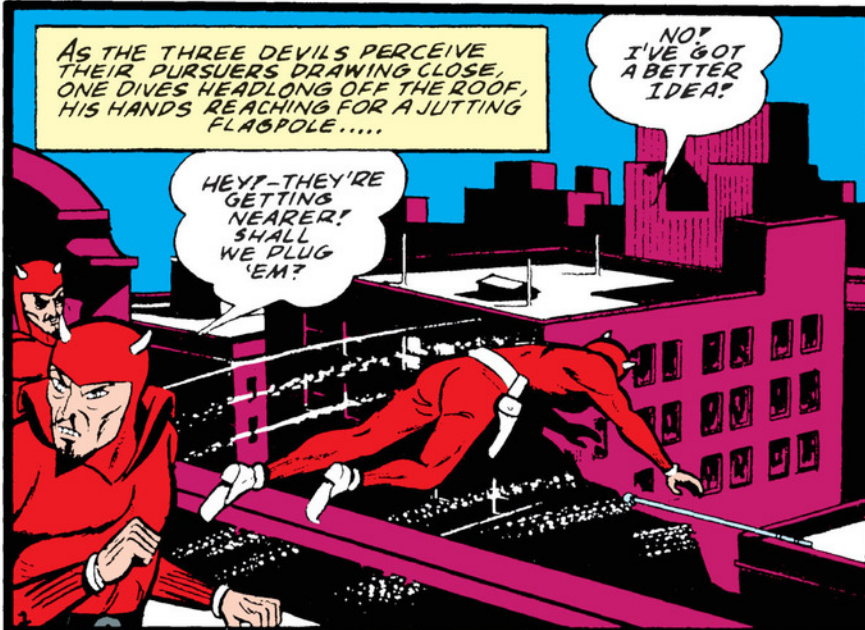
THEN, THE MAN SPRINGS FORWARD AND BRINGS A GUN BUTT DOWN ON THE BATMAN'S HEAD....



THE THREE DEVILS CONTINUE THEIR FLIGHT ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS....



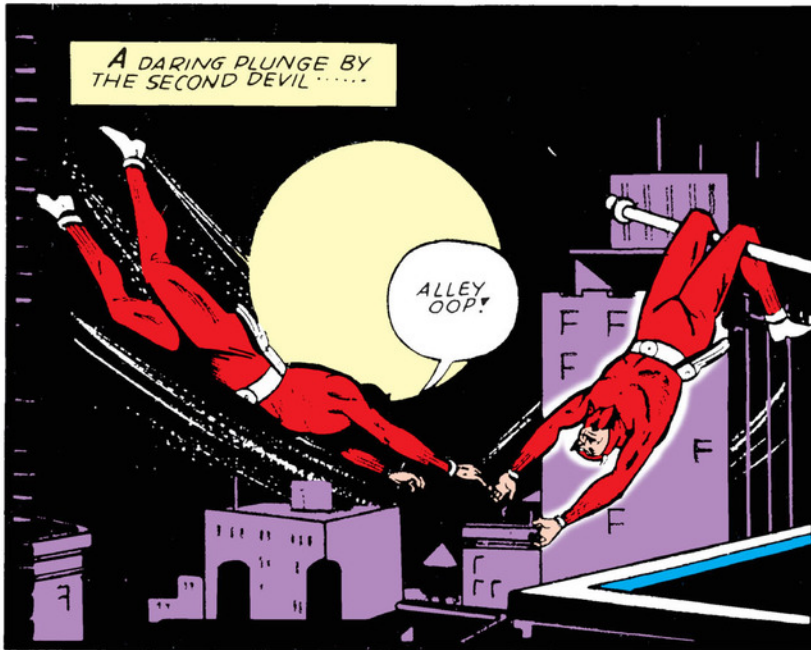
AS THE THREE DEVILS PERCEIVE THEIR PURSUERS DRAWING CLOSE, ONE DIVES HEADLONG OFF THE ROOF, HIS HANDS REACHING FOR A JUTTING FLAGPOLE.....



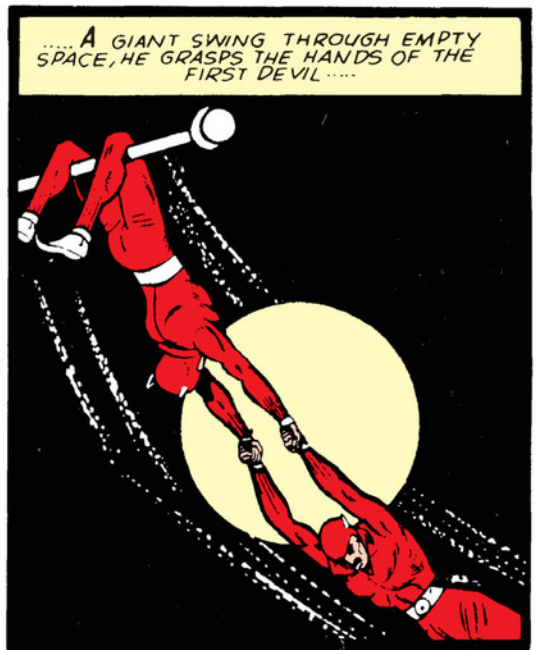
WHEN HE GAINS THE FLAGPOLE, HE HOOKS HIS LEGS AROUND IT AND DANGLES HEAD DOWN.....



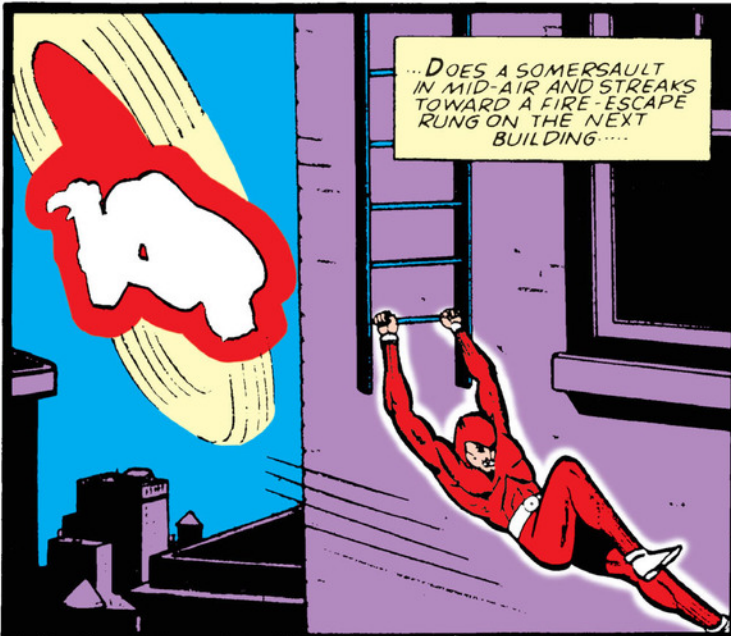
A DARING PLUNGE BY
THE SECOND DEVIL.....



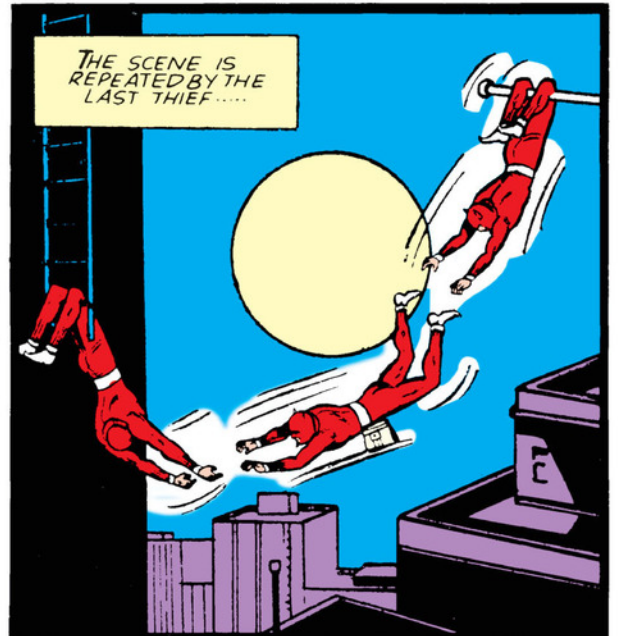
..... A GIANT SWING THROUGH EMPTY
SPACE, HE GRASPS THE HANDS OF THE
FIRST DEVIL.....



.... DOES A SOMERSAULT
IN MID-AIR AND STREAKS
TOWARD A FIRE-ESCAPE
RUNG ON THE NEXT
BUILDING.....



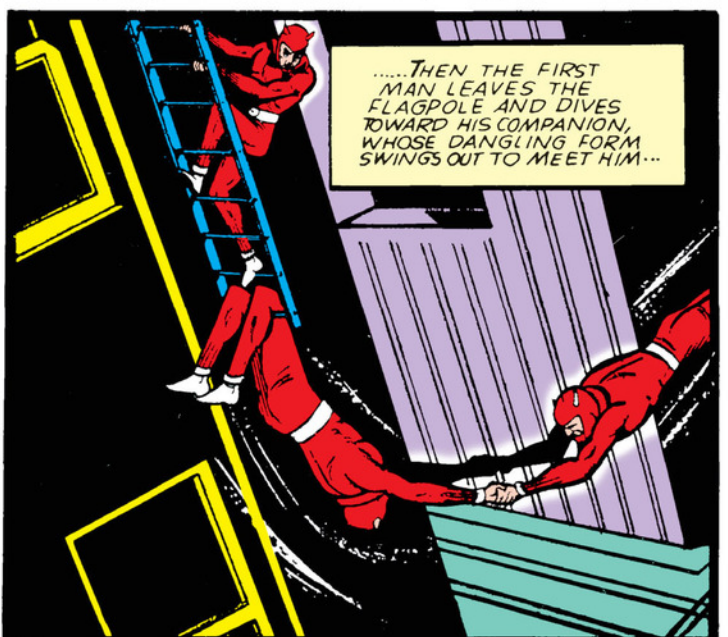
THE SCENE IS
REPEATED BY THE
LAST THIEF.....



.... AND THE THIRD
DEVIL IS CAUGHT
BY THE SECOND
DEVIL.....



..... THEN THE FIRST
MAN LEAVES THE
FLAGPOLE AND DIVES
TOWARD HIS COMPANION,
WHOSE DANGLING FORM
SWINGS OUT TO MEET HIM...



THE THREE, THEN, SCRAMBLE UP THE LADDER AND CONTINUE THEIR SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT?



OKAY? STEP ON IT!

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVE TOO LATE!



BOY, DID YOU SEE HOW THEY GOT AWAY?

YES- AND VERY NEATLY DONE! ROBIN, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR SOME STIFF COMPETITION! THOSE DEVILS ARE DARE-DEVILS!

IN THE ENSUING WEEKS, THE NAME OF THE "THREE DEVILS" BECOMES WELL KNOWN- TOO WELL KNOWN FOR COMFORT!



RECORD

THREE DEVILS LOOT JEWELRY STORE

NEWS

THREE DEVILS MAKE DARING ESCAPE AFTER HOLDUP

THREE DEVILS STEAL FAMOUS 'S RUBY

WELL, CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU DIDN'T CATCH THE THREE DEVILS THIS TIME?

CATCH THEM? WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO THEM!

THEY HOP AROUND LIKE MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS!



AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE CHATS WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

THOSE THREE DEVILS SEEM TO BE GIVING THE POLICE A VERY DEVIL OF A TIME! A BAD PUN, DICK, BUT QUITE TRUE, NEVERTHELESS!



DICK, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE THREE DEVILS DO WITH ALL THE JEWELS THEY'VE STOLEN?

WHY- WHY, THEY SELL THEM FOR MONEY, OF COURSE!



BUT WAIT- THEY CAN'T SELL THEM TO JEWELRY STORES.

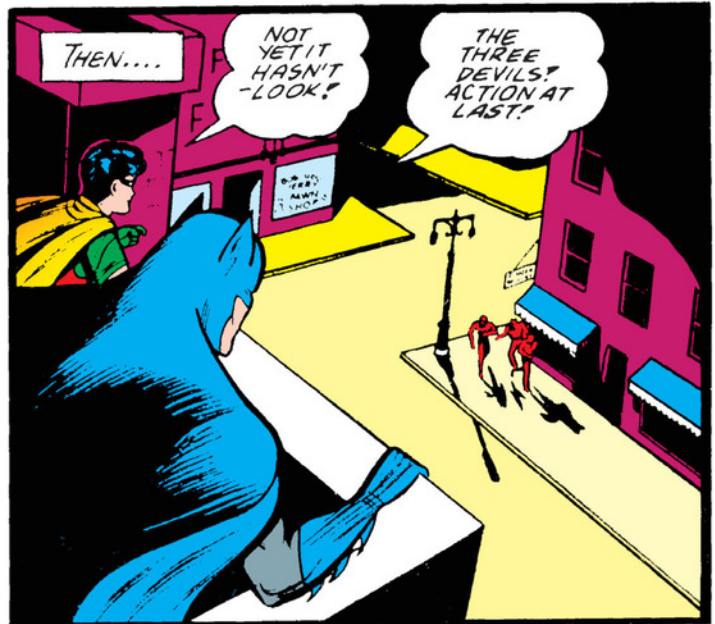
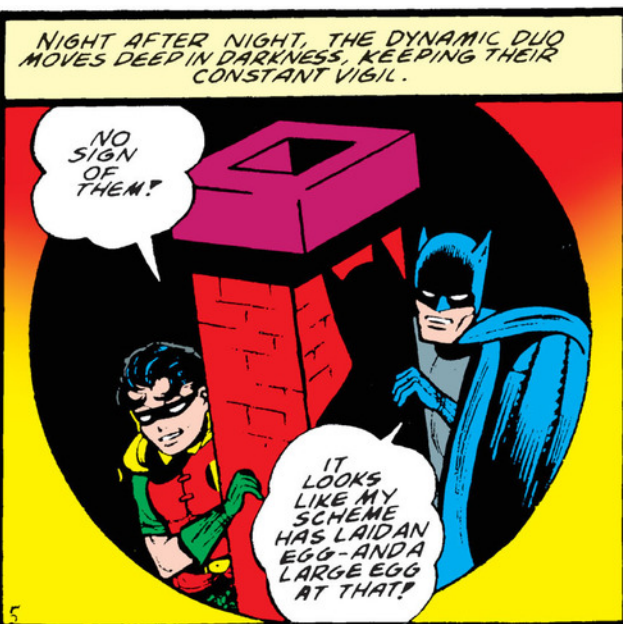
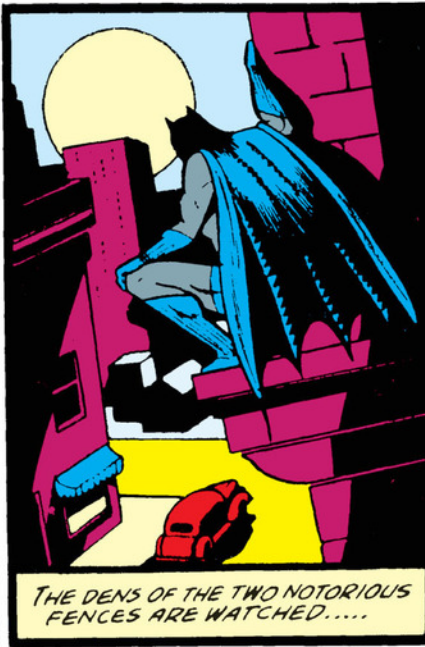
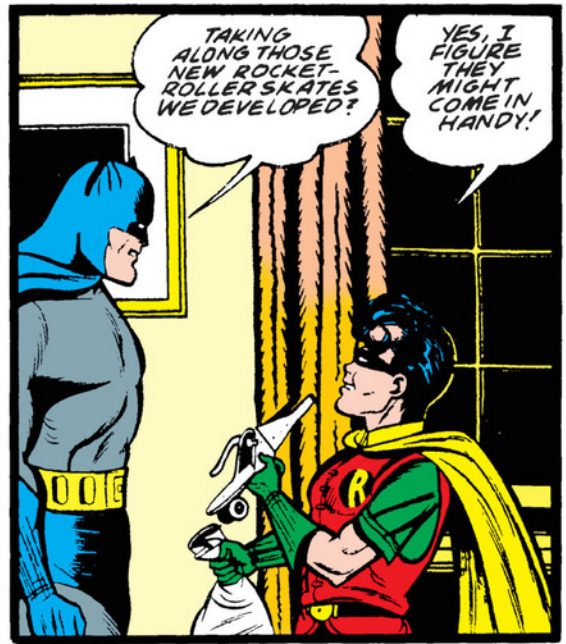
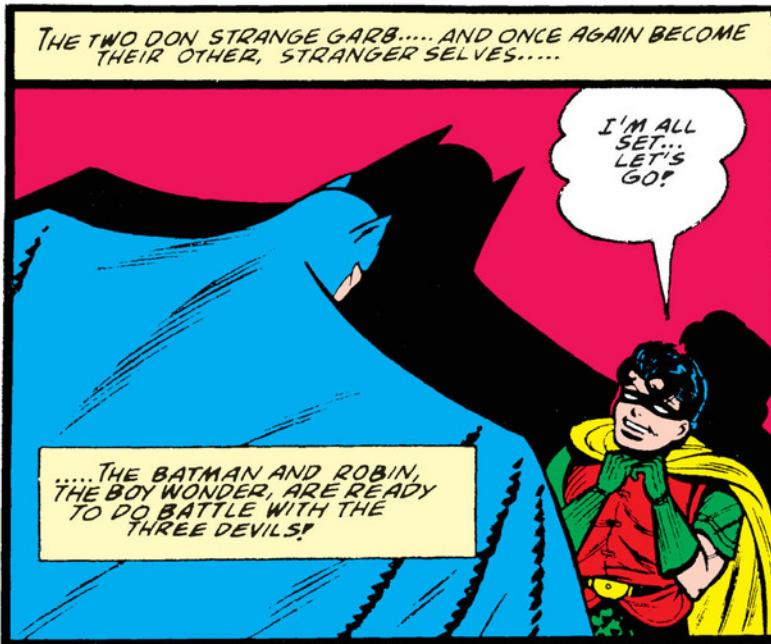
EXACTLY! THEY MUST SELL THE STUFF TO A "FENCE"! - A MAN WHO BUYS STOLEN DIAMONDS!

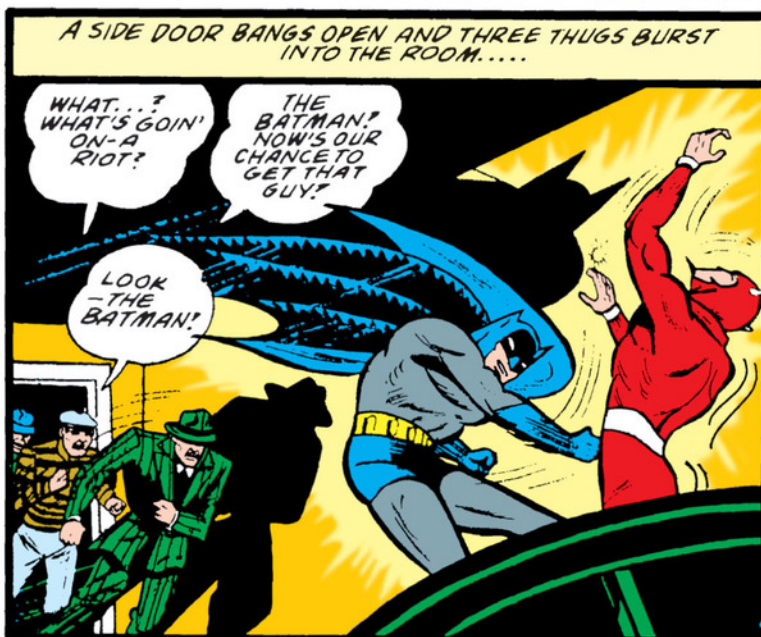
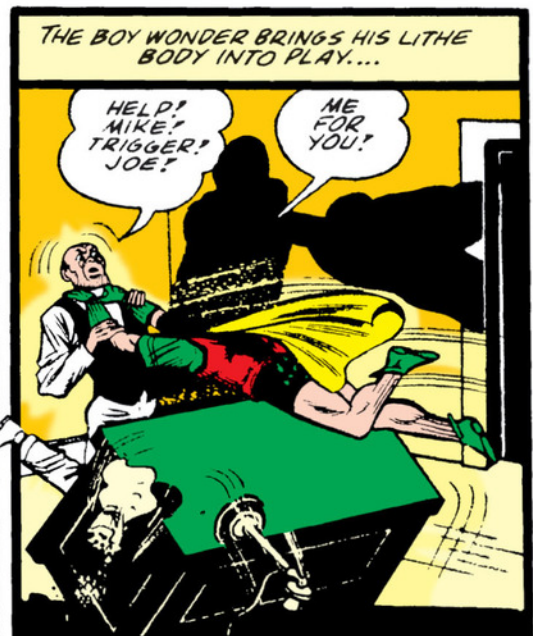
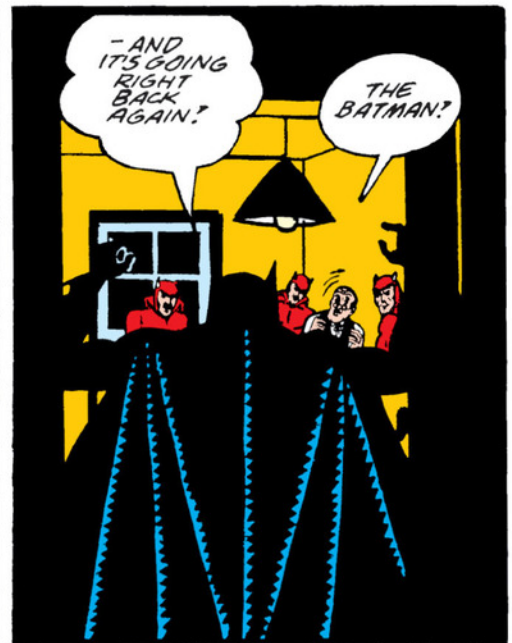


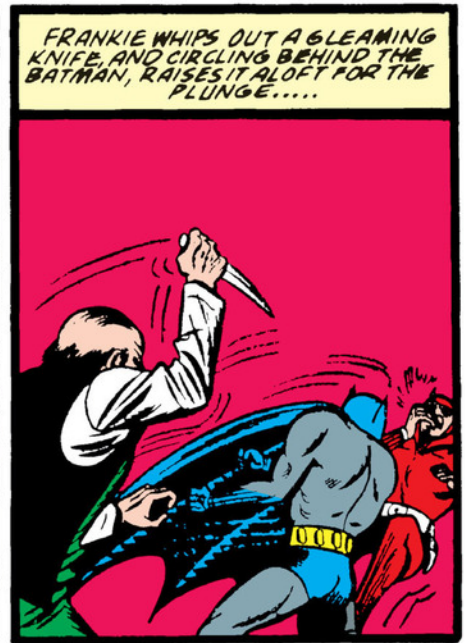
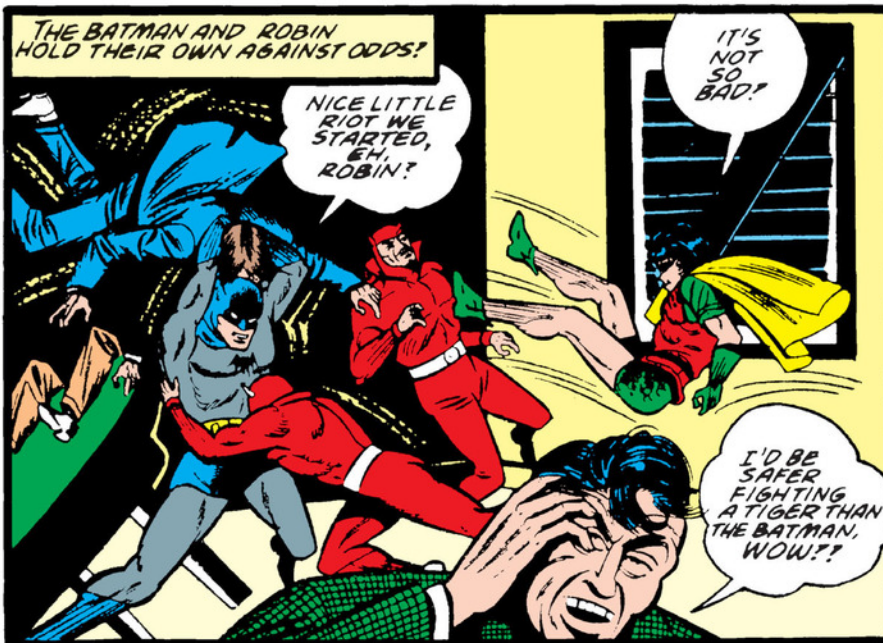
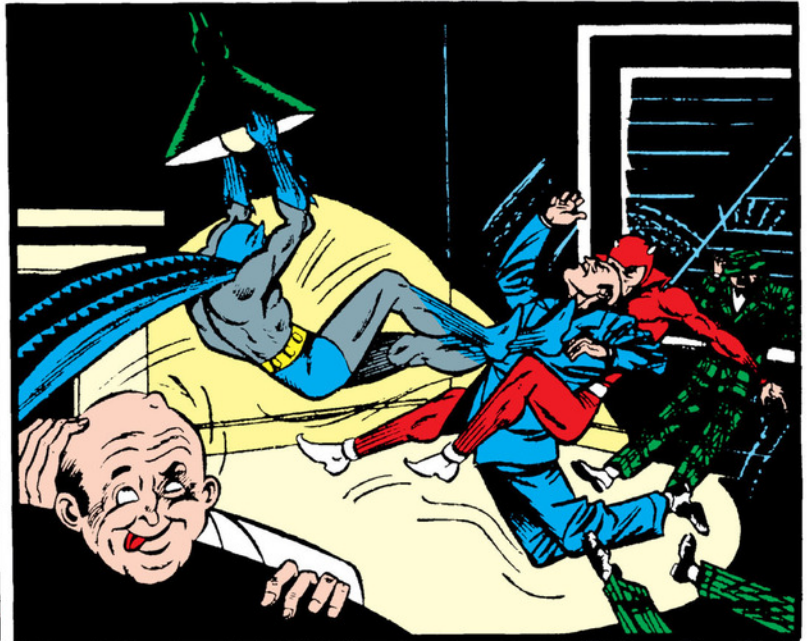
THERE ARE ONLY TWO FENCES IN THE CITY BIG ENOUGH TO BUY AND CUT UP THE DIAMONDS THE DEVILS HAVE STOLEN!

I SEE- AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE TWO FENCES! HERE WE GO AGAIN!













YE KNOW, IF YOU WAS TA BE HITTIN' ME ONCE, I GUESS THEN I COULDN'T HOLD YE- AND I'D STILL BE CARRYIN' OUT ME DOOTY!

SAY, YOU'RE OKAY!



SOCK AWAY!

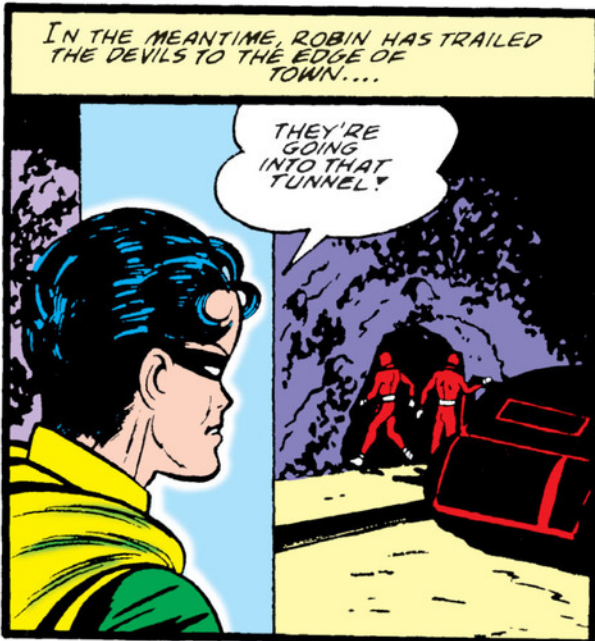
AS LONG AS YOU SAY SO- HERE IT IS!



...AND WHEN OTHER POLICE BREAK IN...

IT'S RILEY! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!

...AND WILL YOU LOOK AT THE MAN... HE-HE LOOKS LIKE HE WAS GRINNING AT SOMETHING!



IN THE MEANTIME, ROBIN HAS TRAILED THE DEVILS TO THE EDGE OF TOWN....

THEY'RE GOING INTO THAT TUNNEL!

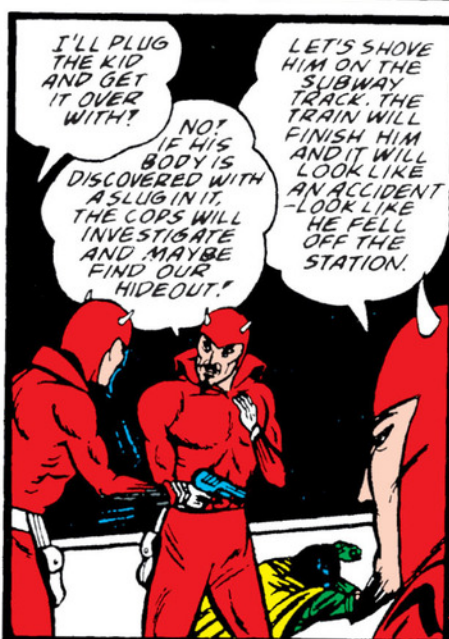


ROBIN FOLLOWS...

WHY- WHY THIS IS THE ABANDONED TUNNEL THAT CONNECTS WITH THE SUBWAY!



AS THE THREE DEVILS TURN A CORNER, ROBIN IS CLOSE BEHIND, WHEN SUDDENLY SOMETHING LANDS ON HIS HEAD WITH A PARALYZING THUD!



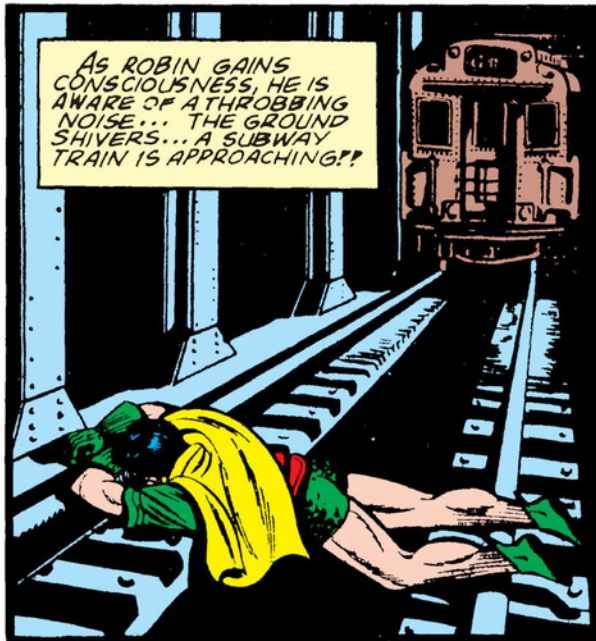
I'LL PLUG THE KID AND GET IT OVER WITH!

NOT IF HIS BODY IS DISCOVERED WITH A SLUG IN IT. THE COPS WILL INVESTIGATE AND MAYBE FIND OUR HIDEOUT!

LET'S SHOVE HIM ON THE SUBWAY TRACK. THE TRAIN WILL FINISH HIM AND IT WILL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT - LOOK LIKE HE FELL OFF THE STATION!



A MOMENT LATER, ROBIN'S INERT FORM IS LYING ACROSS A SUBWAY EXPRESS TRACK..... IN THE DISTANCE, THE WAIL OF A TRAIN WHISTLE IS HEARD....



AS ROBIN GAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE IS AWARE OF A THROBBING NOISE... THE GROUND SHIVERS... A SUBWAY TRAIN IS APPROACHING!!



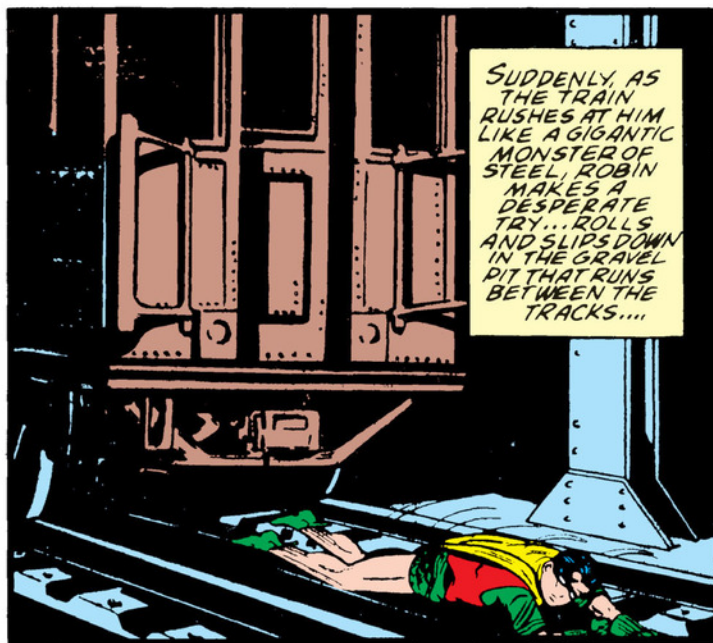
DEATH-CRUSHING DEATH IS HURTLING AT HIM AS THE TRAIN ROARS OUT OF THE TUNNEL...

TRAIN--GROGGY--CAN'T MOVE--GOT NO STRENGTH!



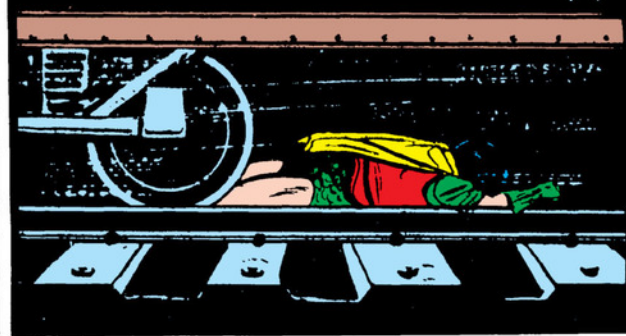
THE TERRIBLE BLOW ON THE HEAD HAS LEFT ROBIN STILL DIZZY AND WEAK. THE TRAIN LEAPS AT HIM AT A TERRIFYING SPEED...

GOT TO MOVE--GOT TO....



SUDDENLY, AS THE TRAIN RUSHES AT HIM LIKE A GIGANTIC MONSTER OF STEEL, ROBIN MAKES A DESPERATE TRY... ROLLS AND SLIPS DOWN IN THE GRAVEL PIT THAT RUNS BETWEEN THE TRACKS....

HE IS NOT A SECOND TOO SOON, FOR AN INSTANT LATER THE TRAIN IS DASHING OVER HIM AT BULLET SPEED!



IT POUNDS OVER THE RAILS, ITS WHEELS SCREAMING LIKE TORTURED BEASTS....



LATER, WHEN HE IS ABLE, ROBIN RACES HOME TO RELATE EVERYTHING TO THE BATMAN....

...SO I'M ALL RIGHT NOW. ANYWAY, WE KNOW WHERE THE HIDEOUT OF THE THREE DEVILS IS!

APPROPRIATE THAT THE DEVILS SHOULD HAVE A HIDEOUT UNDERGROUND--SORT OF IN KEEPING WITH THEIR CHARACTER! WE'LL TAKE A LOOK TOMORROW AFTER YOU'VE RESTED!



THE NEXT NIGHT, THE DYNAMIC DUO RETRACE ROBIN'S STEPS AND ENTER THE HIDDEN ABODE OF THE THREE DEVILS!

THEY'RE GONE!

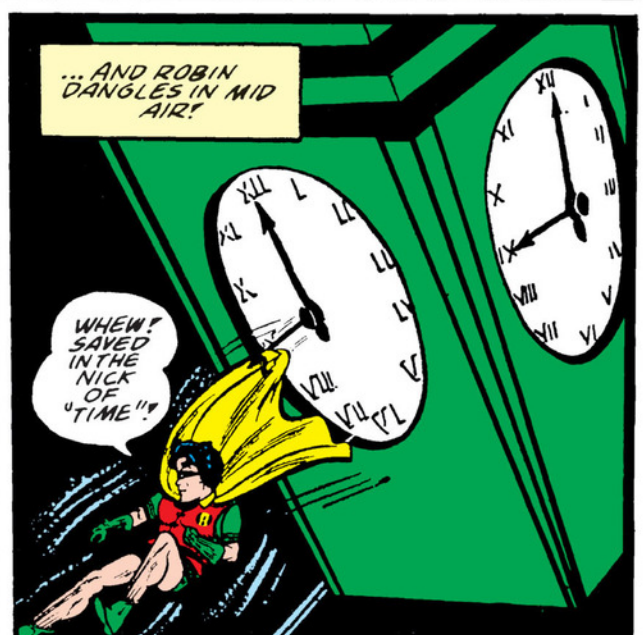
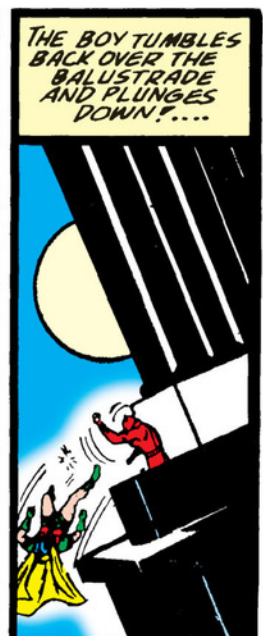
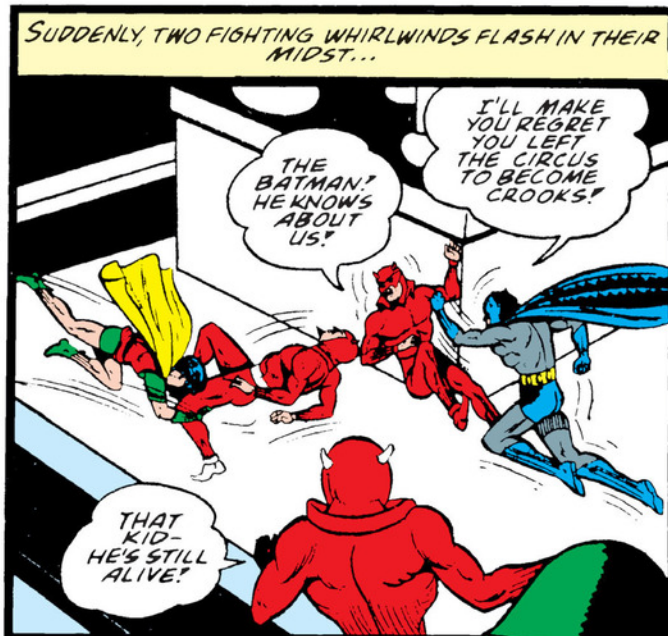
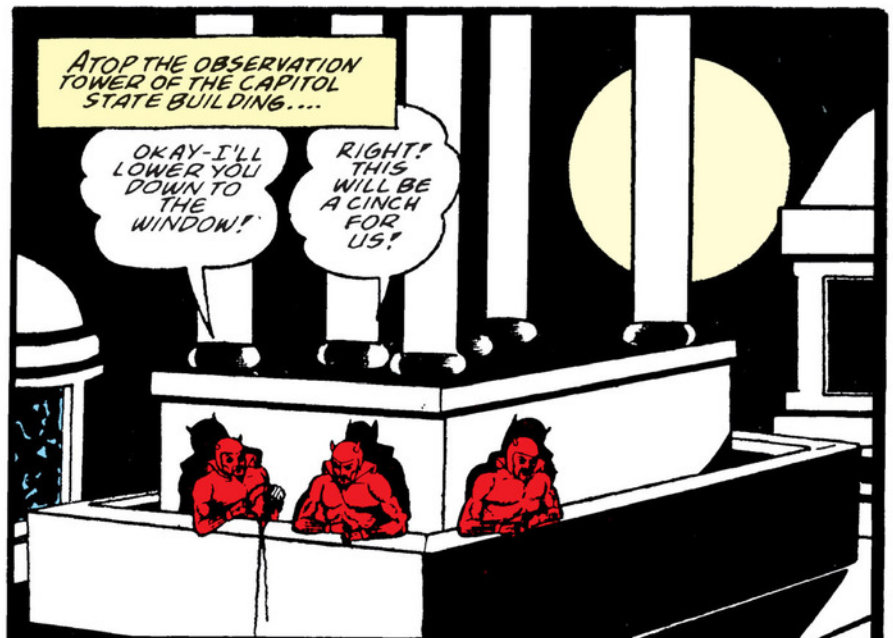
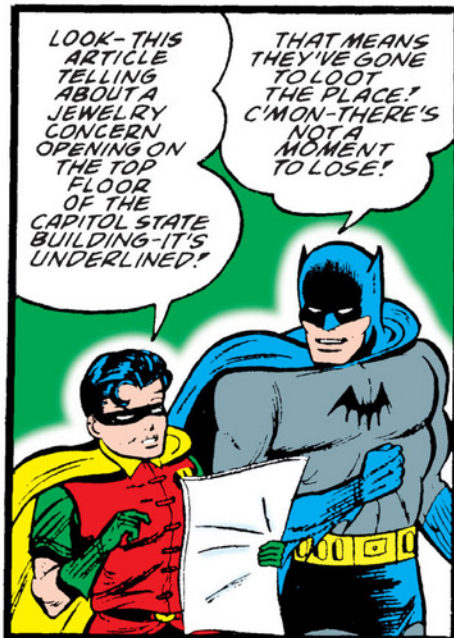
PROBABLY OUT PULLING ONE OF THEIR JOBS!

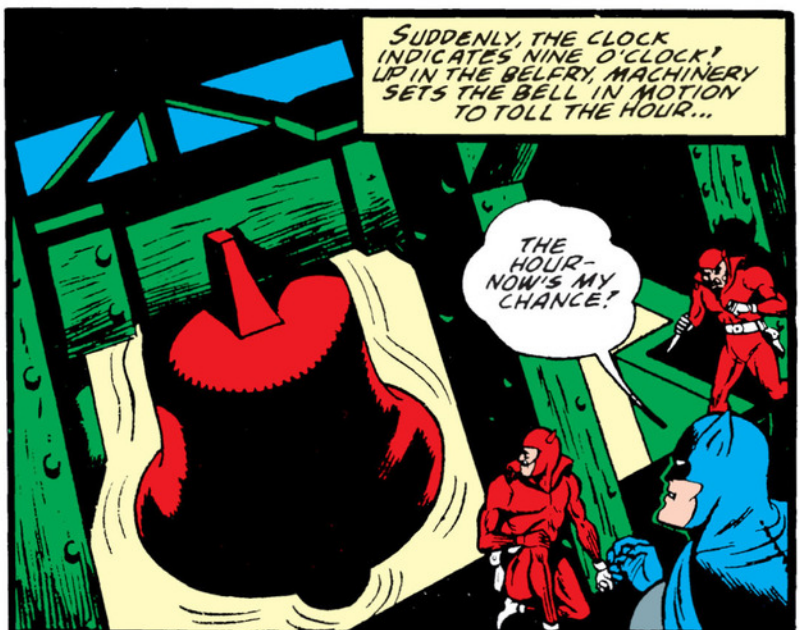
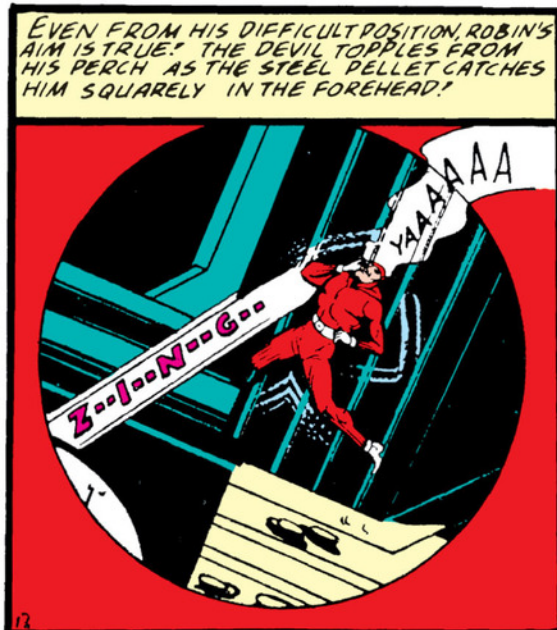
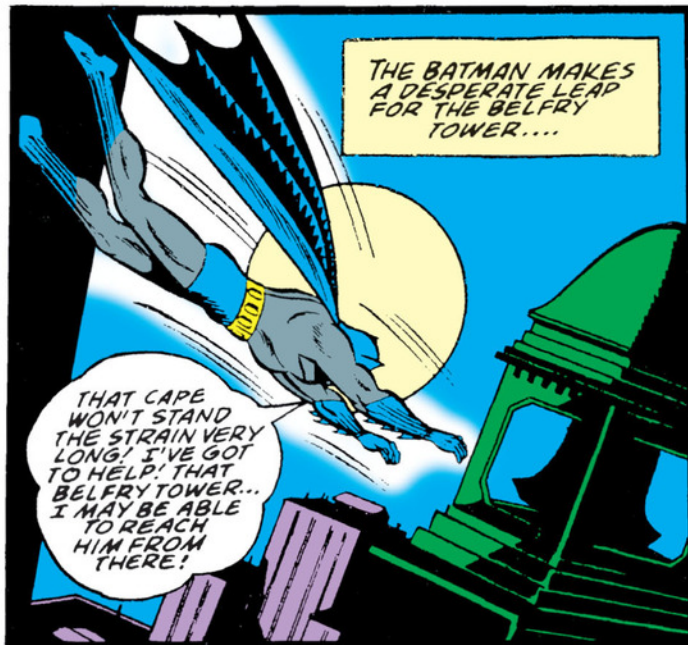


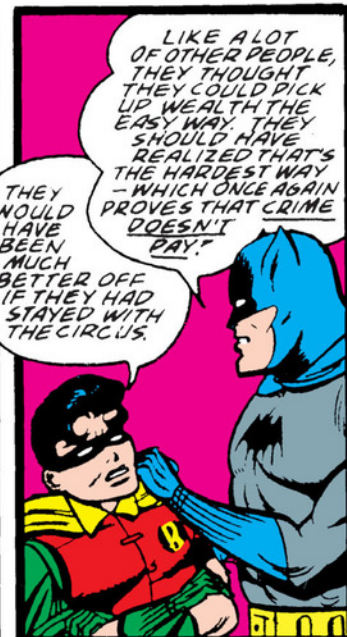
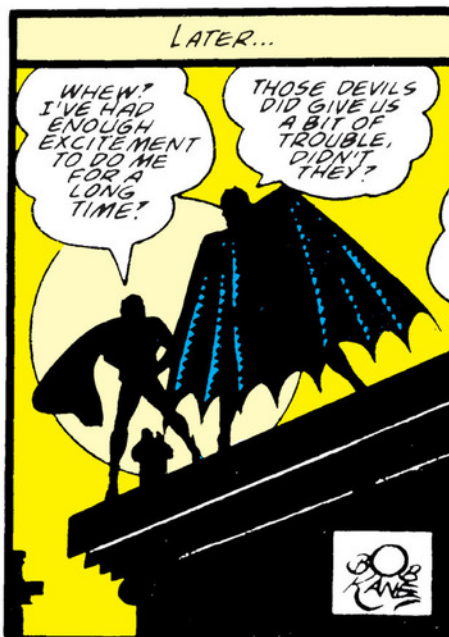
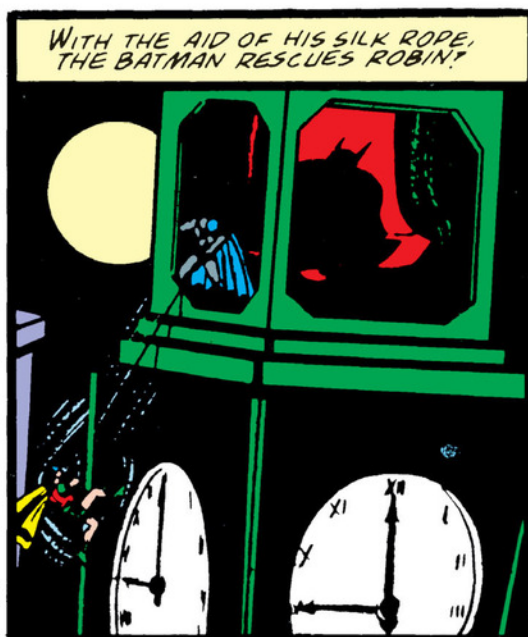
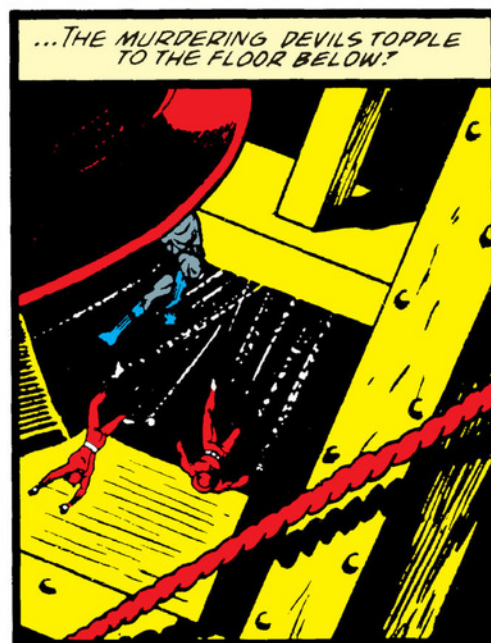
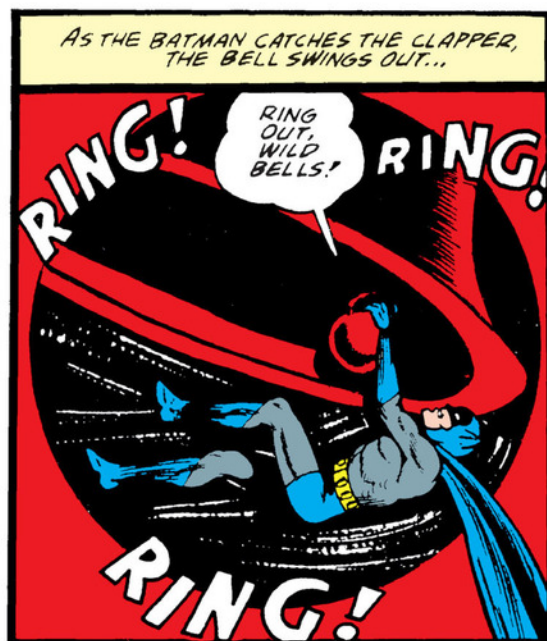
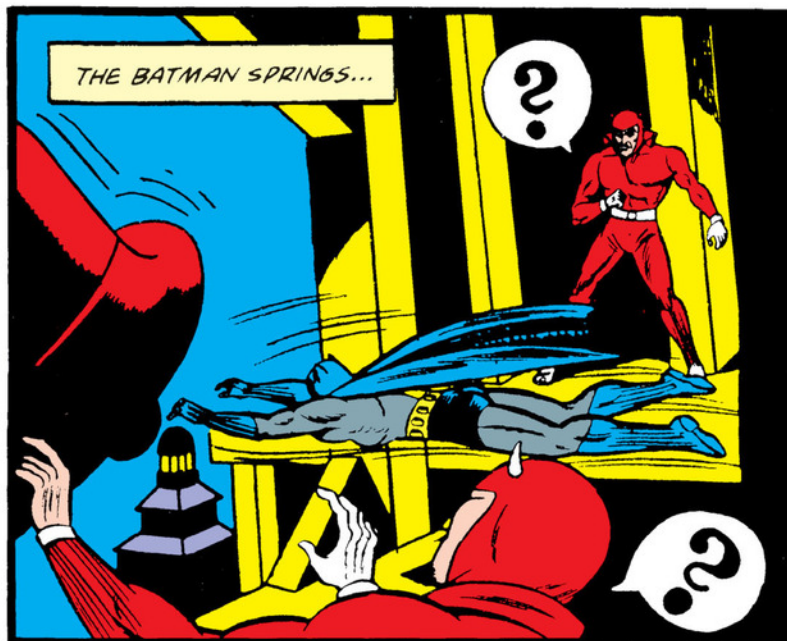
THE BATMAN IDLY INSPECTS THE BOOK ON THE TABLE.

A BOOK FULL OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS--ALL ABOUT CIRCUS ACROBATS! NOW I'VE GOT IT--THE THREE DEVILS ARE FORMER CIRCUS ACROBATS!

NO WONDER THEY WERE ABLE TO HOP AROUND LIKE THEY DID!







No. 5



SPRING ISSUE

BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



BOB KANE

BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

By

BOB
KANE

THE BATMAN, MYSTERIOUS FIGURE OF NIGHT, WHO HAS MATCHED WITS WITH MINIONS OF CRIME, AT LAST PLAYS A GAME OF CARDS WITH THAT SUPREME MASTER OF EVIL... **THE JOKER!** A GAME SO DEEP, SO CRAFTY THAT THE ONLY WAY TO WIN IT WAS TO... REACH ITS CLIMAX? CAN THE BATMAN DEFEAT A GAME WHICH EVERYONE ELSE HAD THOUGHT WON? READ ON... READ ON AND FIND THE ANSWER IN...
"THE RIDDLE OF THE MISSING CARD?"



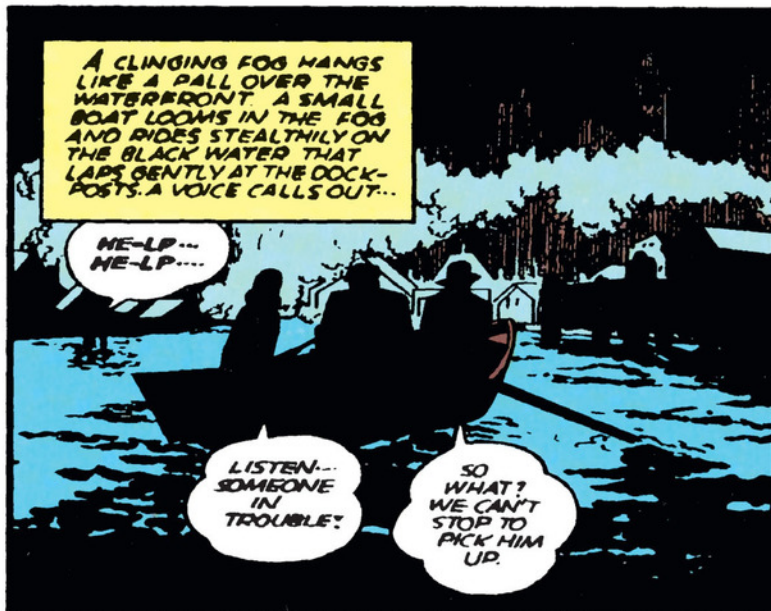
IN THE APARTMENT OF BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON, WHO ARE, IN REALITY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER...

NOTHING MUCH DOING IN TOWN SINCE THE JOKER'S FINISH—HO HUM?

I GUESS THE JOKER DID DIE AFTER ALL, WHEN HE PLUNGED DOWN THAT TRAP-DOOR. AT LEAST, WE HAVEN'T HEARD OF HIM SINCE?

BUT IS THE JOKER REALLY DEAD? OR IS THIS MASTER CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME STILL ALIVE?

LET US SEE WHAT ACTUALLY DID BEFALL THE JOKER WHEN HE PLUMMETED THROUGH THE TRAP-DOOR TO THE SEWAGE WATERS SO FAR BELOW...



A CLINGING FOG HANGS LIKE A PALL OVER THE WATERFRONT. A SMALL BOAT LOOMS IN THE FOG AND RIDES STEALTHILY ON THE BLACK WATER THAT LAPS GENTLY AT THE DOCK-POSTS. A VOICE CALLS OUT...

HE-LP... HE-LP...

LISTEN... SOMEONE IN TROUBLE?

SO WHAT? WE CAN'T STOP TO PICK HIM UP.



HEY... YOU GONE CRAZY? PUT OUT THAT LIGHT? THE COPS WILL SEE US?

SHUT UP... CAN'T YOU SEE WHO IT IS? IT'S THE JOKER!



THAT NAME SEEMS TO WORK MARK. FOR THE OTHER QUICKLY STEERS THE BOAT TO THE JOKER'S BOBBING FORM LATER, IN A DESERTED FACTORY BUILDING NEARBY.....

HOW COME YOU WERE FLOATING AROUND THE WATER AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

HAD A TUSSELE WITH THE BATMAN... FELL DOWN TO SEWAGE WATER... KEPT SWIMMING THROUGH THE PIPE TILL I FOUND WHERE IT EMPTIES INTO THE BAY... EXHAUSTED... THEN YOU FOUND ME?



AFTER THE JOKER HAS REGAINED SOME OF HIS STRENGTH...

I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY YOU HESITATED TO PICK ME UP AT FIRST... HIDING SOMETHING FROM THE POLICE?

YOU GUESSED IT. WE HAD A STEWARD HIDE SOME DIAMONDS ON AN INCOMING STEAMER...

...AND THEN WE SHUGGLE THEM IN... BUT THE DIAMOND SMUGGLING BUSINESS IS PRETTY WELL SHOT... WHAT WITH THE WAR GOING ON?



WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT PICKING ME UP AFTER YOU SAW WHO I WAS?

WE THINK MAYBE YOU CAN FIGURE OUT A NEW RACKET FOR US

WE NEED A NEW RACKET. YOU'RE A GUY WITH BRAINS.



I'LL INTRODUCE US. I'M QUEENIE. THIS IS DIAMOND JACK DEEGAN-- AND THE BIG LUG IS CLUBSY

DEY CALLS ME DATS ON ACCOUNT I AM AN EXPOIT AT CONKIN' GUYS OVER DA BEAN?



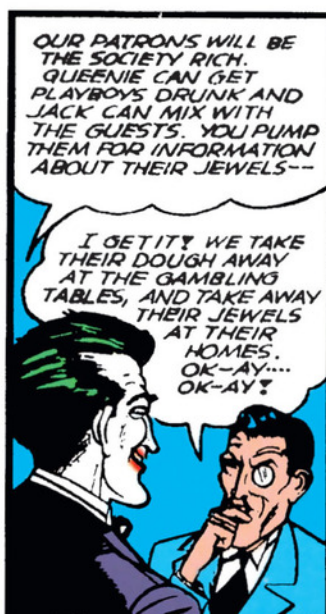
I'VE JUST HAD A DROLL THOUGHT I'M THE JOKER... WE HAVE BLACK-HAIRED QUEENIE... THE BLACK QUEEN... DIAMOND JACK-- THE JACK OF DIAMONDS....



... AND CLUBSY. HERE THE KING OF CLUBS-- FOUR CARDS ABOUT TO PLAY A GAME OF CHANCE WITH THE POLICE?

I DON'T LIKE TO PLAY WID DE COPS. YA CAN'T CHEAT WID DEM. DE LAST TIME I PLAYED RUMMY WID SERGEANT CASEY. HE....

SHUT UP, CLUBSY?



TWO MONTHS LATER.... THE GAMBLING SHIP, "THE DECK" HAS BECOME FRONT PAGE NEWS... ALONG WITH THE NEWS OF RECURRING ROBBERIES....



AT THE WAYNE HOME....



"JUST A NICK"? YET IT IS THIS LITTLE NICK THAT WILL SAVE THE BATMAN FROM DEATH AND ENABLE HIM TO BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF AN ARCH-CRIMINAL. SUCH IS THE IRONY OF LIFE!

EARLY THAT EVENING, BRUCE IS AMONG THE GUESTS THAT THROU THE GAMBLING SHIP....

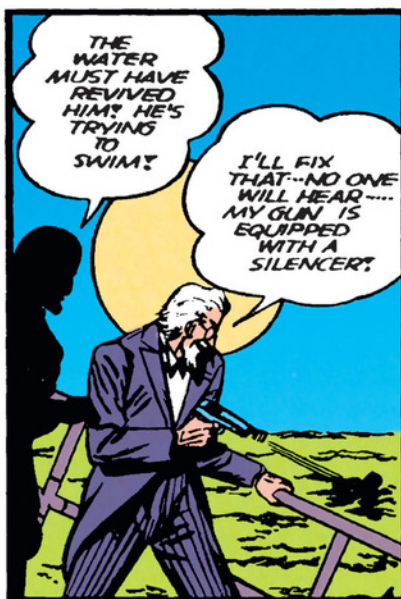
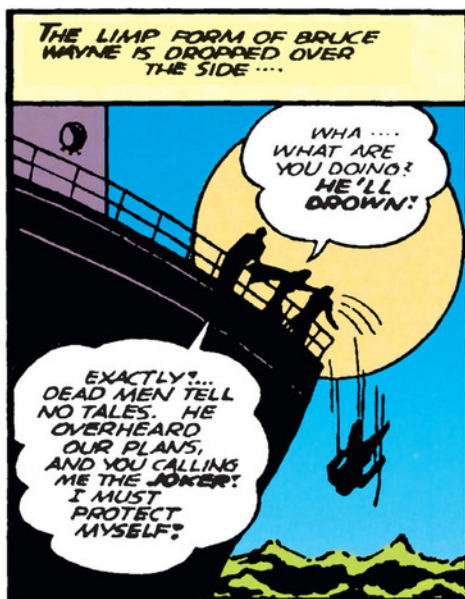
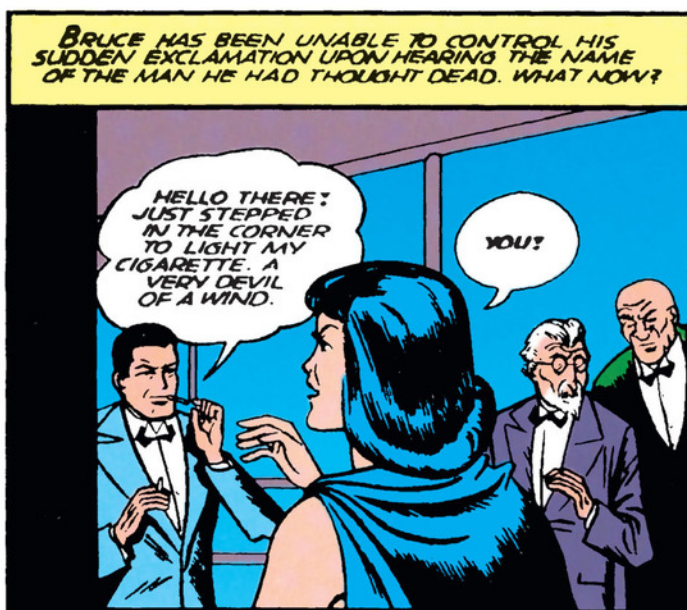
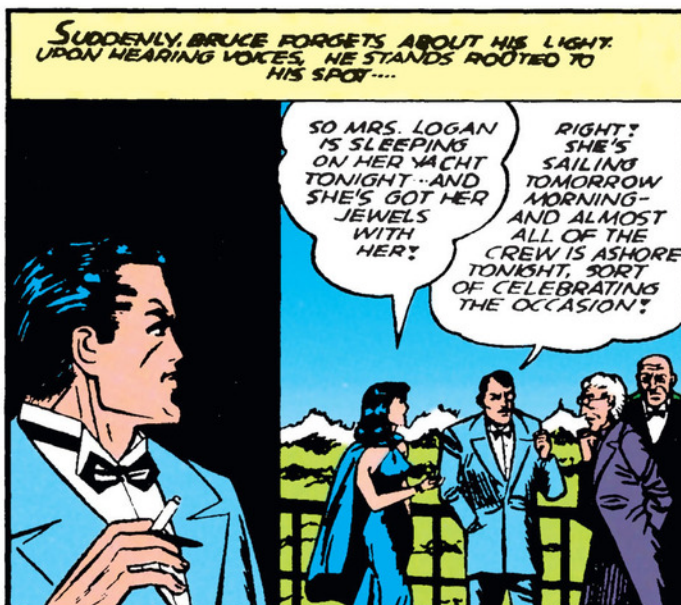


BY CHANCE, HE MAKES THE ACQUAINTANCE OF QUEENIE, WHO ACTS THE PART OF HOSTESS ON THE SHIP....



I DARE SAY YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY EXCITING THING ABOARD THIS SHIP. YOU'RE QUITE PRETTY, YOU KNOW.





MOMENTS LATER, A DRIPPING FIGURE CLIMBS ONTO THE WHARF..... IT IS BRUCE WAYNE....

GOOD THING I HAD PRESENCE OF MIND TO PRETEND I WAS HIT. NOW HOME... AND SOME DRY CLOTHES!

AFTER ACQUAINTING YOUNG DICK WITH THE FACTS, HE AND THE BOY DON STRANGE GARB TO BECOME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER....

THEY RACE THROUGH A SECRET TUNNEL THAT RUNS UNDER THE WAYNE HOME....

....TO A BARN HOUSING A SUPER-CHARGED CAR. THE BATMAN STEPS ON THE THROTTLE AND THE BATMOBILE LEAPS AWAY AND OUT INTO THE NIGHT.

IT RACES THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE A RUNAWAY COMET AND FINALLY SKIDS TO A HALT BEFORE THE LOGAN YACHT.....

WE MAY BE TOO LATE!

JUST IN TIME, I SEE!

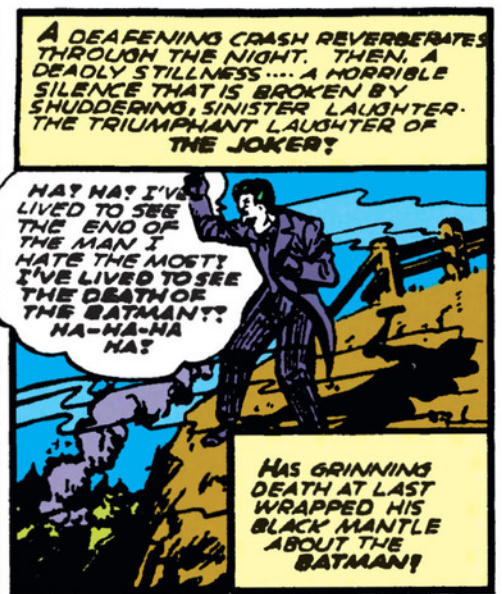
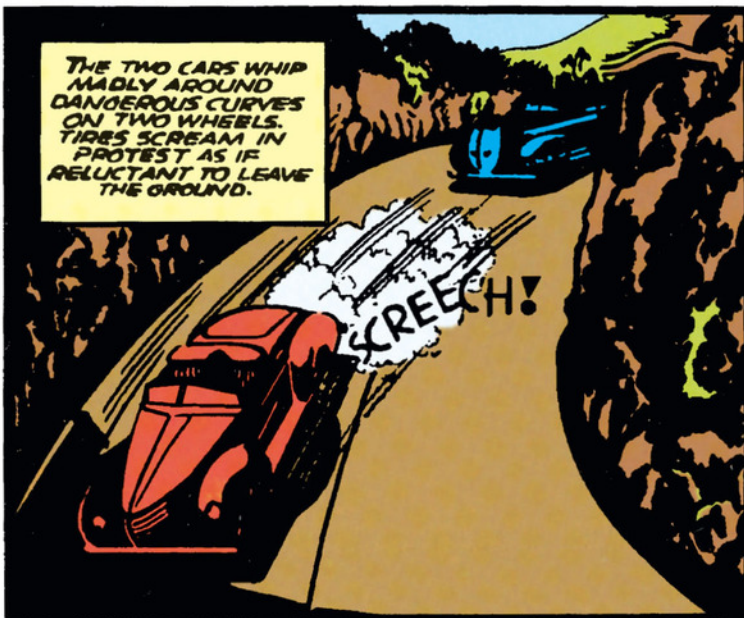
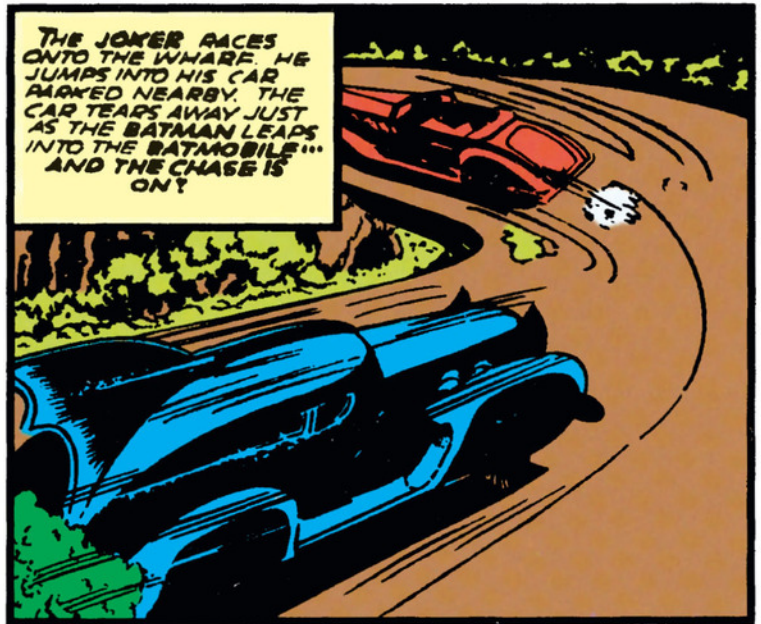
THE BATMAN?

GREETINGS, JOKER? NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN?

UGH!

BRING THAT POP-GUN BACK TO THE TOY COUNTRY!

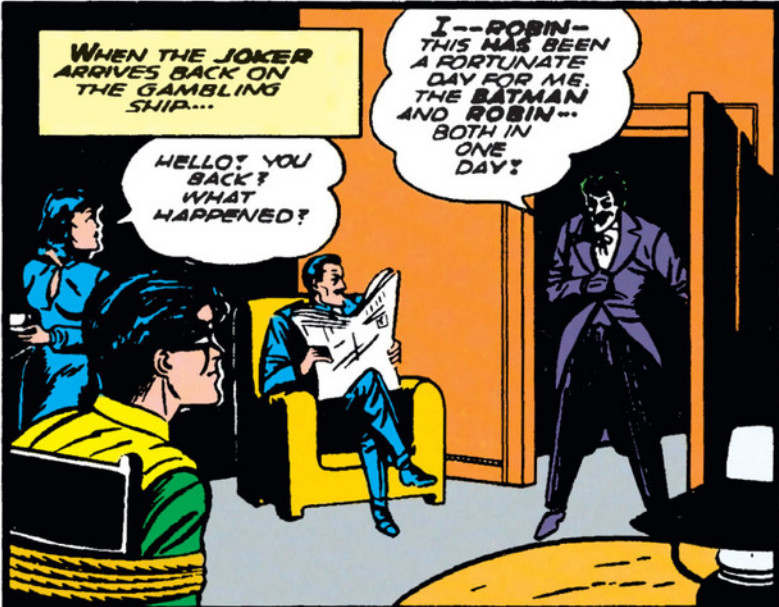
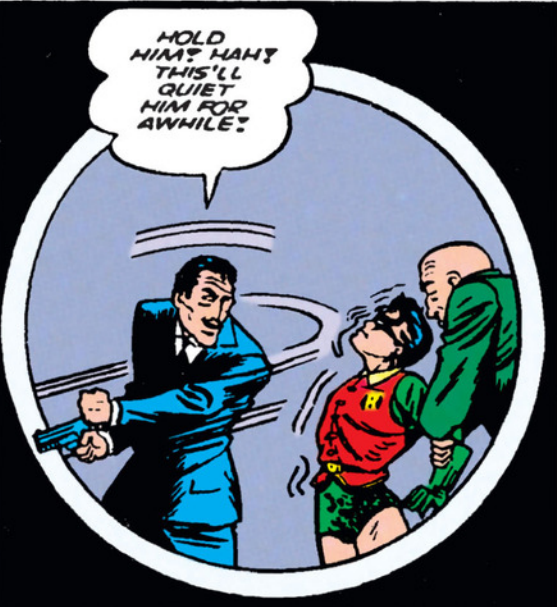


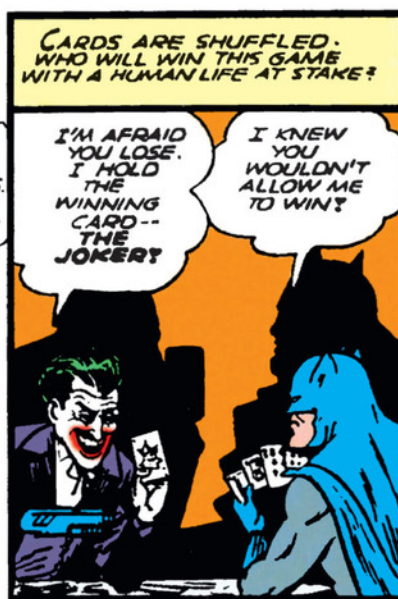
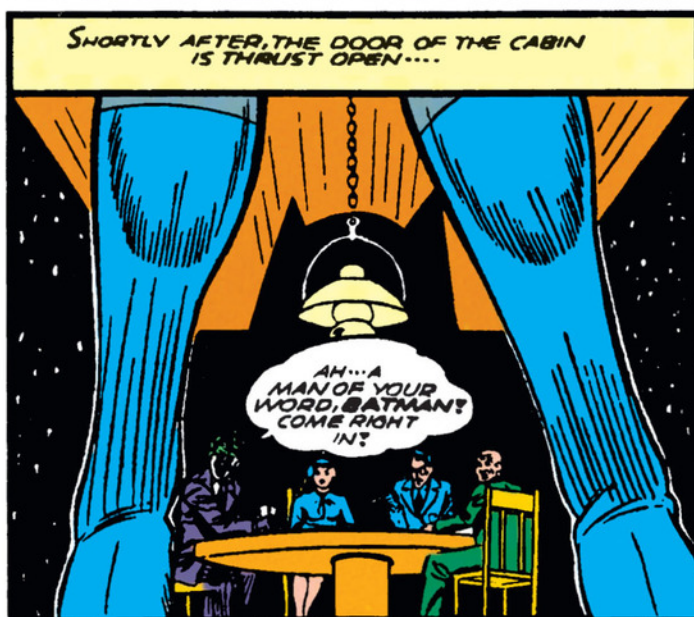
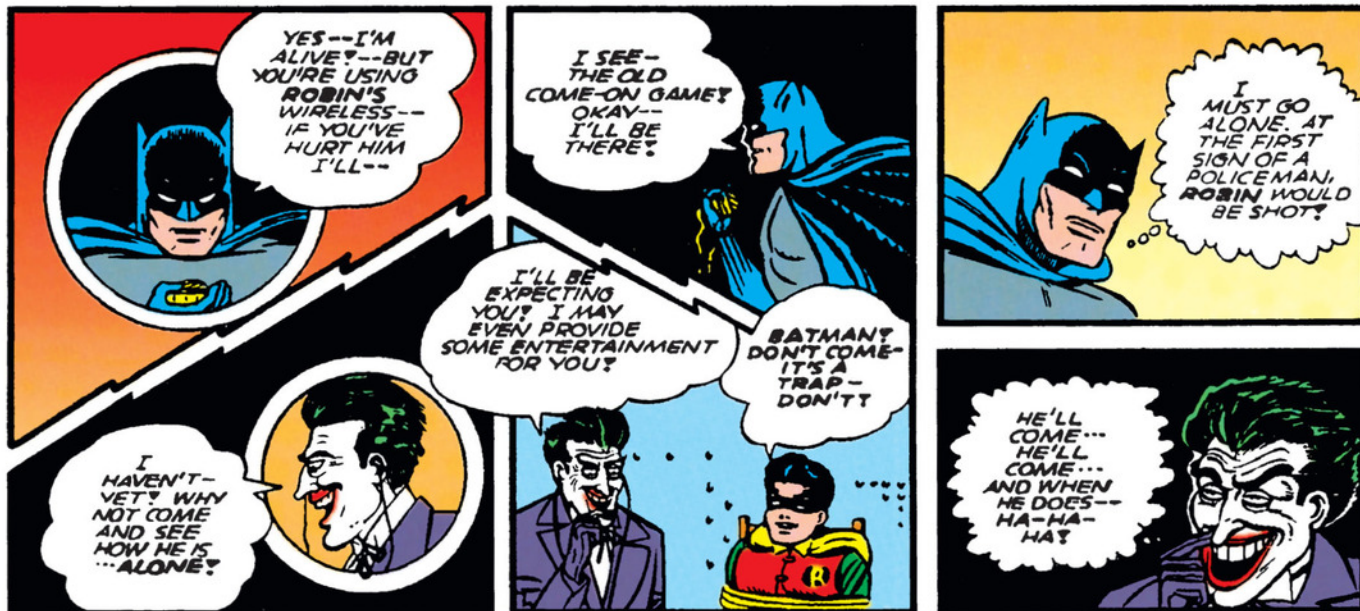


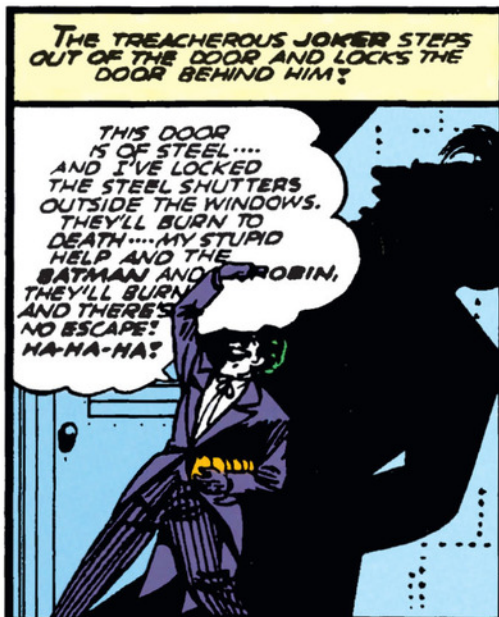
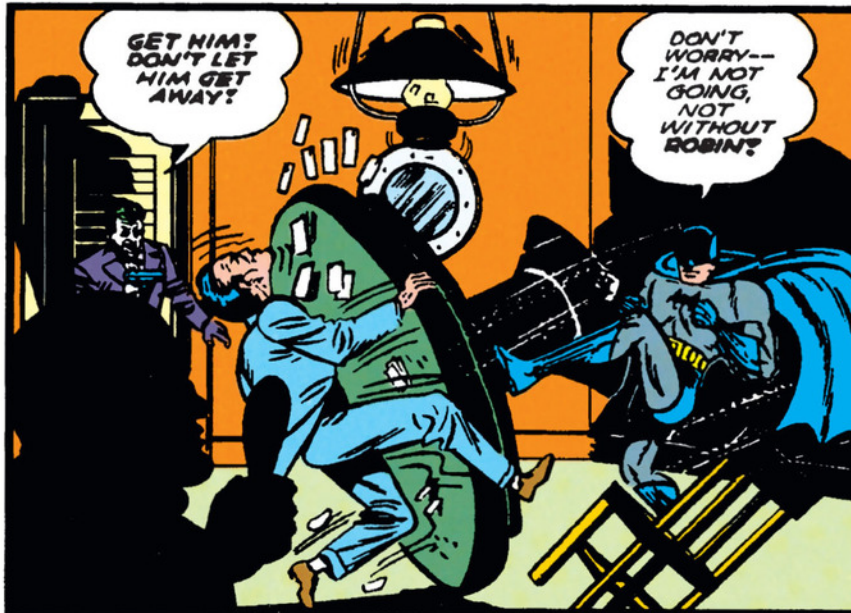
THE JOKER LAUGHS TOO SOON. FOR HANGING FROM A JUTTING BRANCH, WHICH HE HAD GRASPED IN HIS DOWNWARD PLUNGE, IS THE BATMAN!

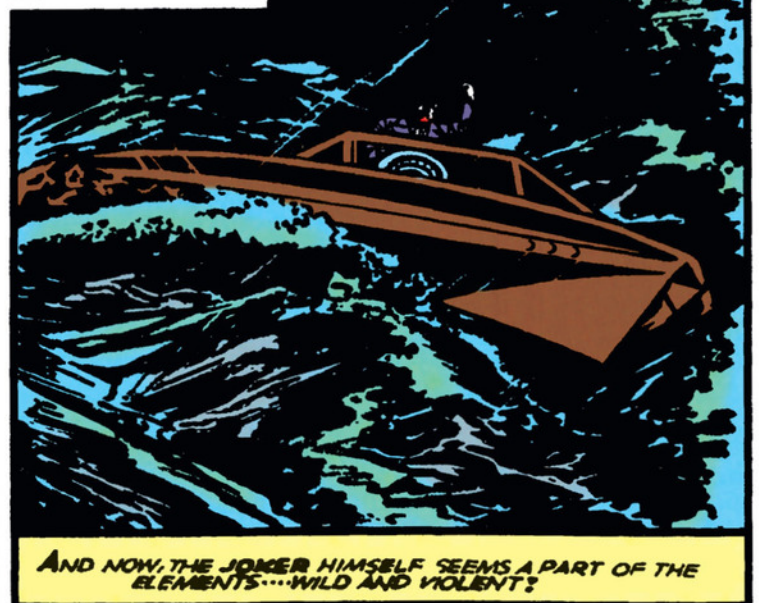
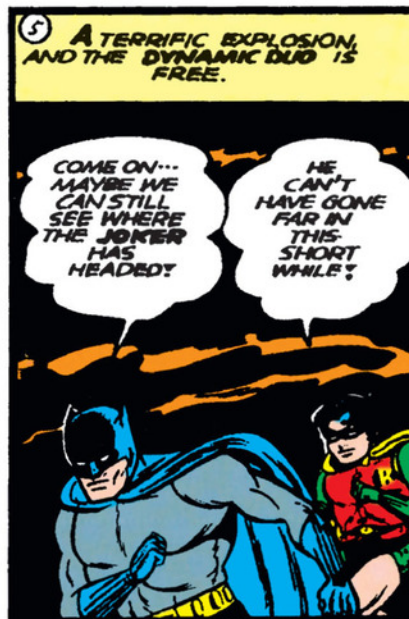
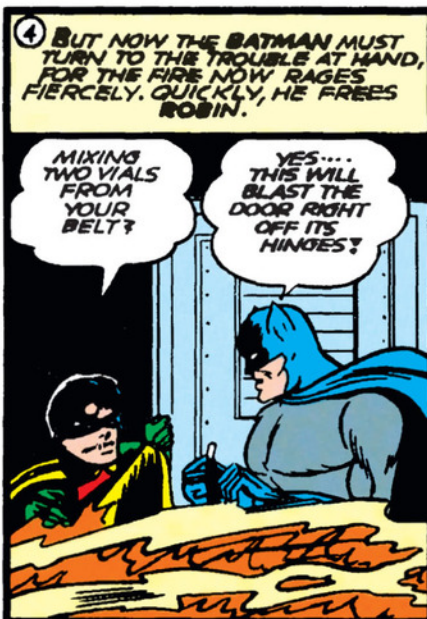


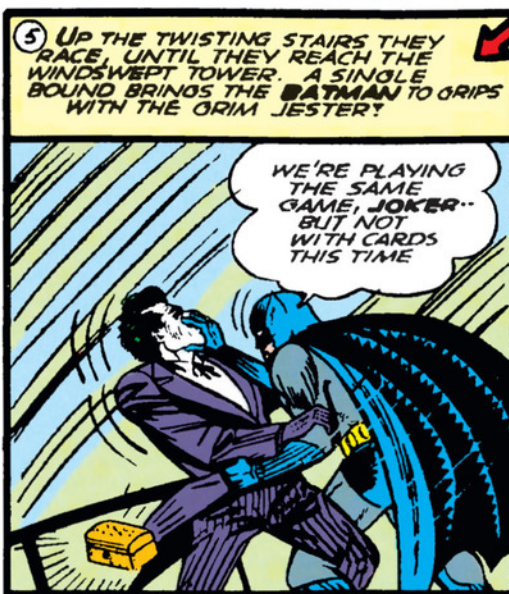
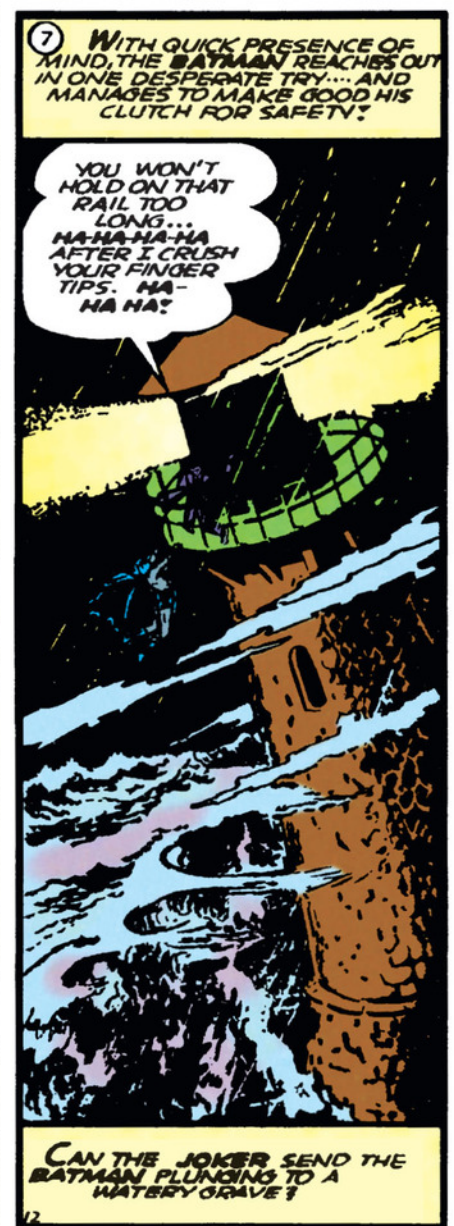
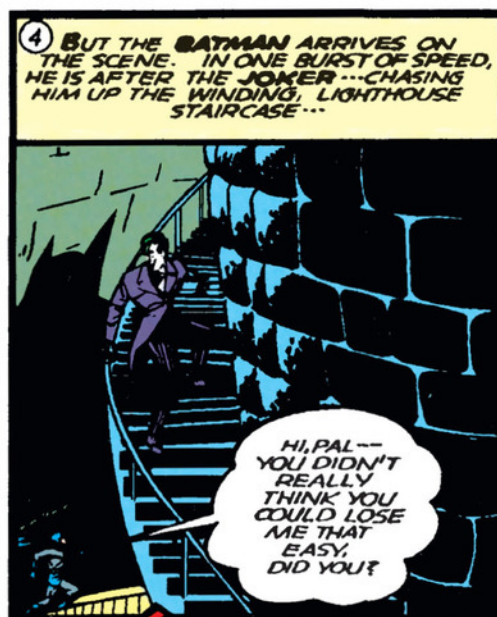
MEANWHILE, ROBIN, TOO, HAS HIS TROUBLES. AS HE STEPS BACK TO AVOID DIAMOND JACK'S GUN, CLUBBY WRAPS HIS HUGE ARMS ABOUT HIM---







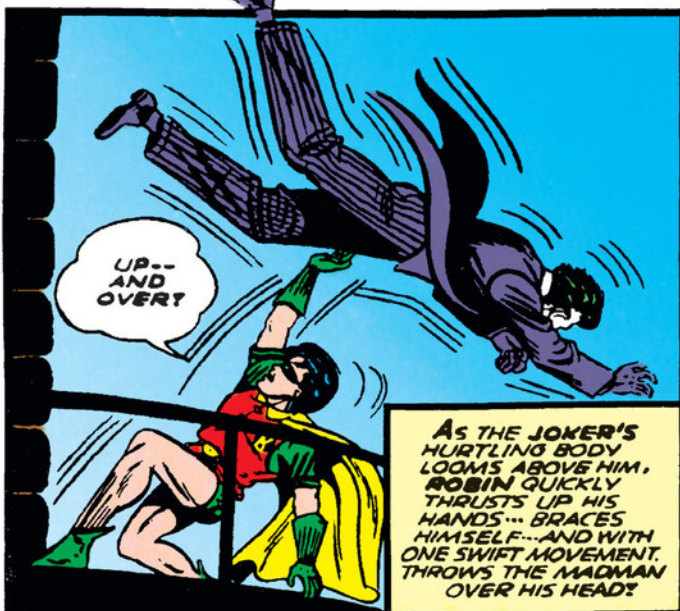
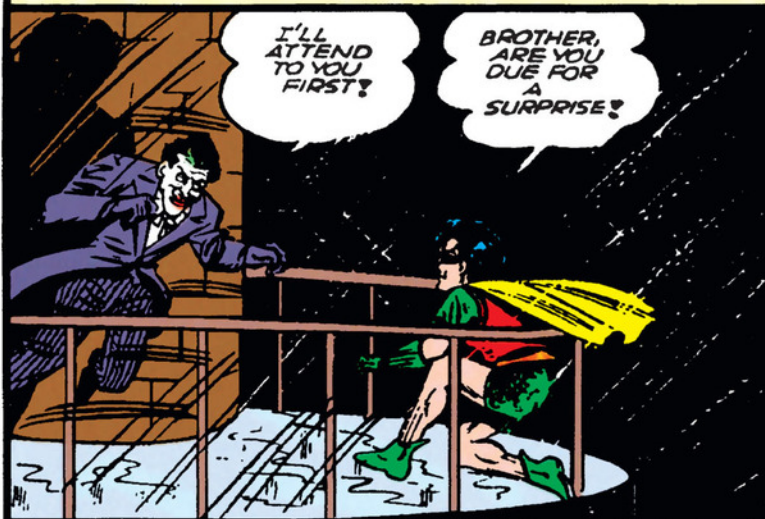




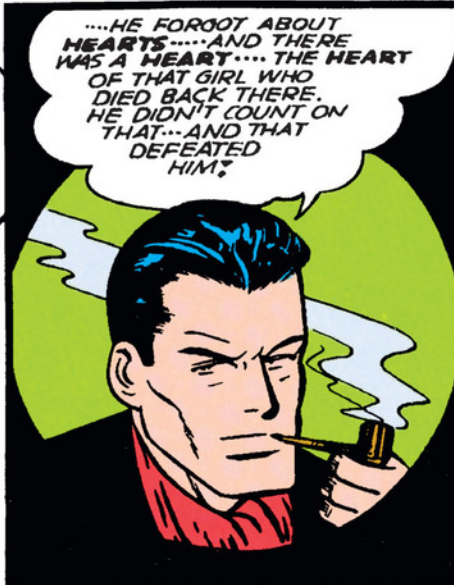
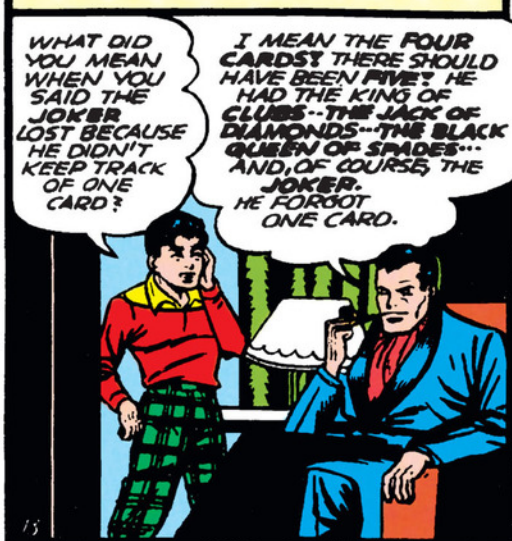
ABRUPTLY, A SMALL FIGURE HURLS HIMSELF AT THE JOKER...IT IS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER?



ENRAGED, THE KILLER-CLOWN CATAPULTS TOWARD THE BOY WONDER....BUT ROBIN SUDDENLY DROPS TO ONE KNEE...



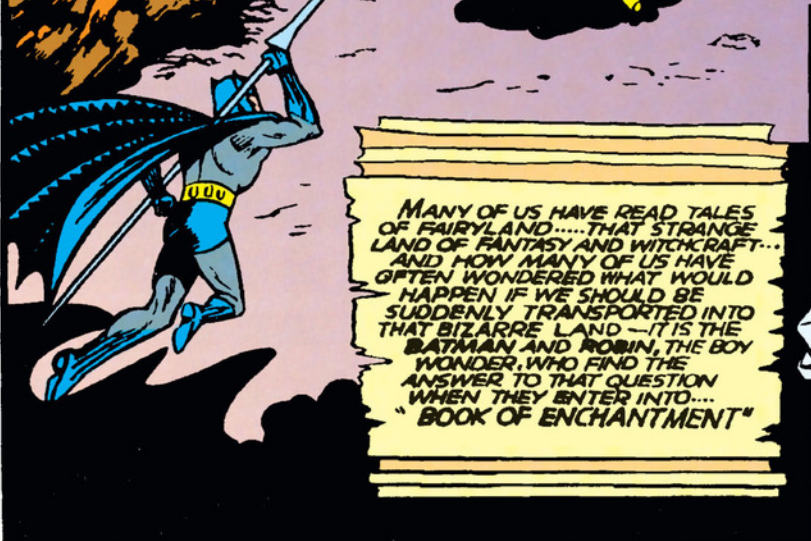
LATER THAT EVENING....



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

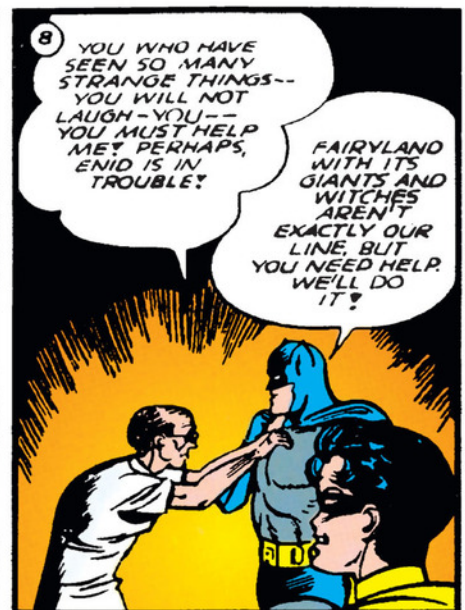
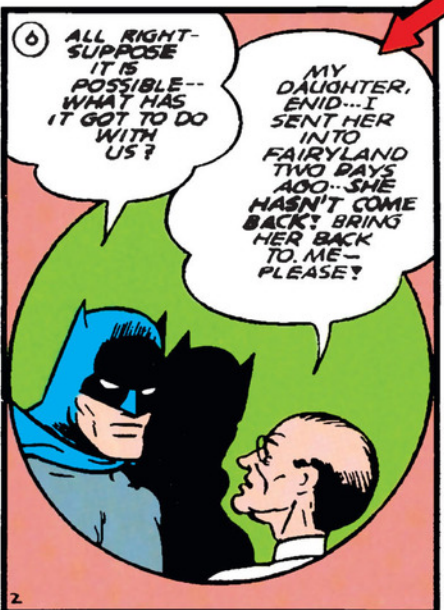
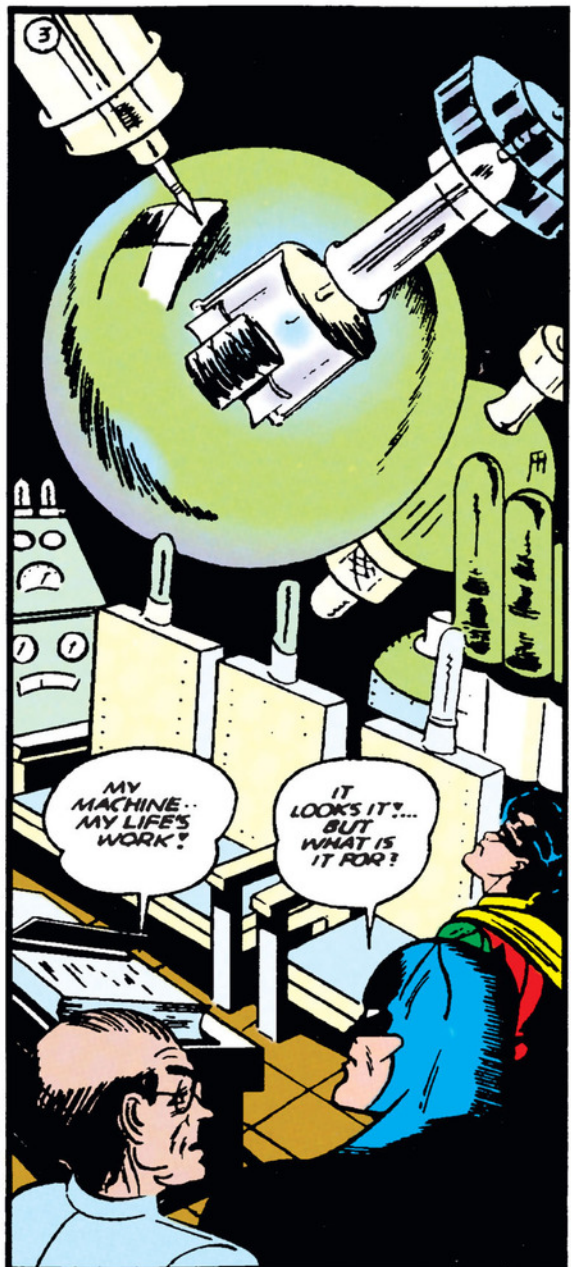
By
BOB KANE

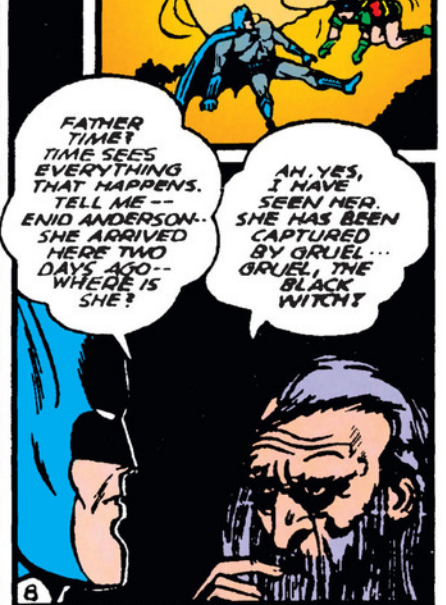
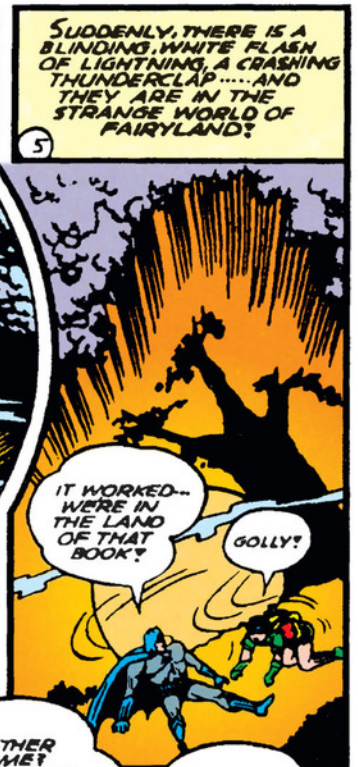
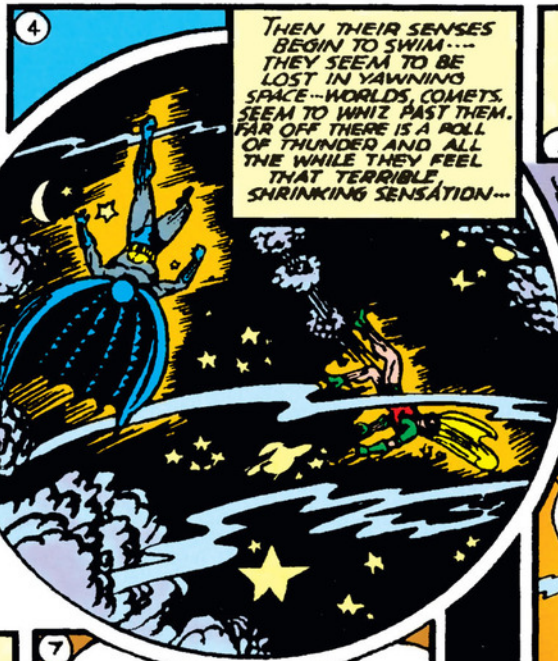
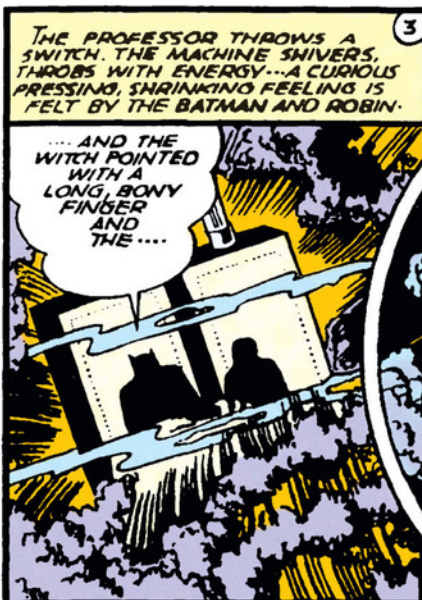
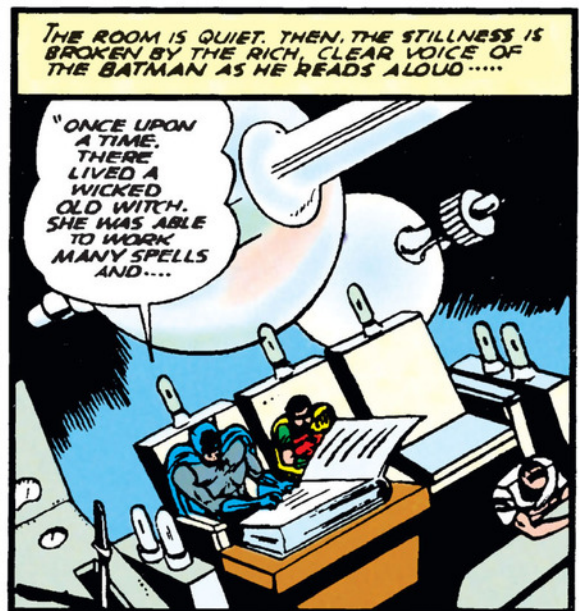
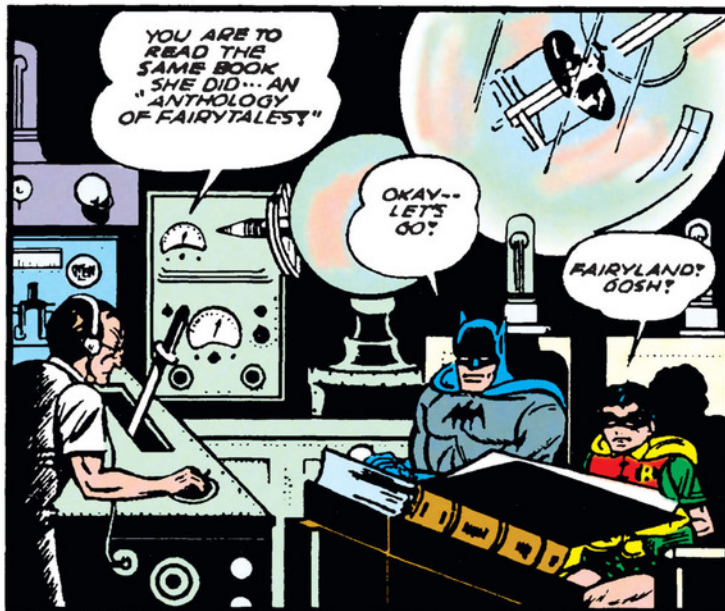


MANY OF US HAVE READ TALES OF FAIRYLAND.....THAT STRANGE LAND OF FANTASY AND WITCHCRAFT... AND HOW MANY OF US HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE SHOULD BE SUDDENLY TRANSPORTED INTO THAT BIZARRE LAND--IT IS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WHEN THEY ENTER INTO... "BOOK OF ENCHANTMENT"

ONE NIGHT, AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FOLLOW A HOMEWARD PATH, THEY SEE TWO SNEAK THIEVES ABOUT TO CLIMB INTO A HOUSE. WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE DYNAMIC DUO CHARGES FORWARD TO DO BATTLE WITH THESE MEN OF CRIME.









① NEARER COME THE STRANGE ANTAGONISTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN.....



② AS THE MAN OF FIRE APPROACHES HIM, THE BATMAN FINDS IT NECESSARY TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM THE HEAT THAT SEARS HIS EYEBALLS.....

THE HEAT... THE TERRIBLE HEAT!

COME--WE WRESTLE?



③ SUDDENLY, THE MAN OF FIRE LEAPS.....

NOW I MAKE YOU WRESTLE?



④ QUICK AS THOUGHT, THE BATMAN DROPS TO THE GROUND... HIS OUT-THRUST FOOT TRIPS THE MAN OF FIRE.....



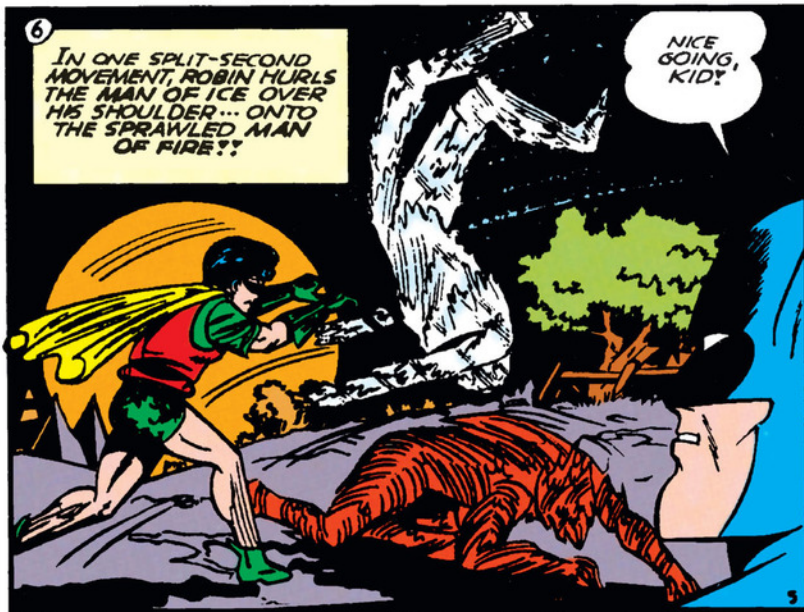
⑤ WHILE AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE MAN OF ICE LUNGES AT THE BOYWONDER WHO SIDESTEPS AND.....

BRRR! LIKE GRABBING AN ICICLE?



⑥ IN ONE SPLIT-SECOND MOVEMENT, ROBIN HURLS THE MAN OF ICE OVER HIS SHOULDER... ONTO THE SPRAWLED MAN OF FIRE??

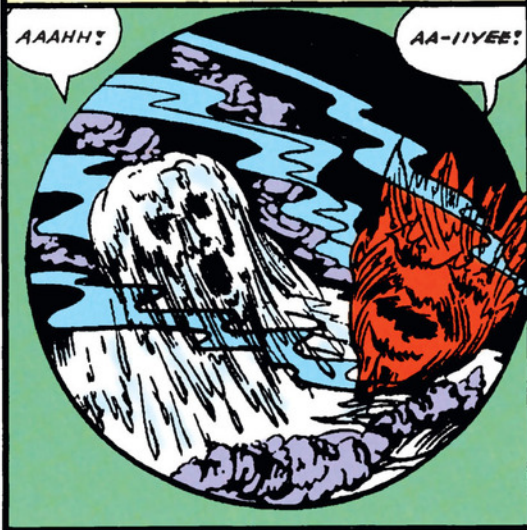
NICE GOING, KID!

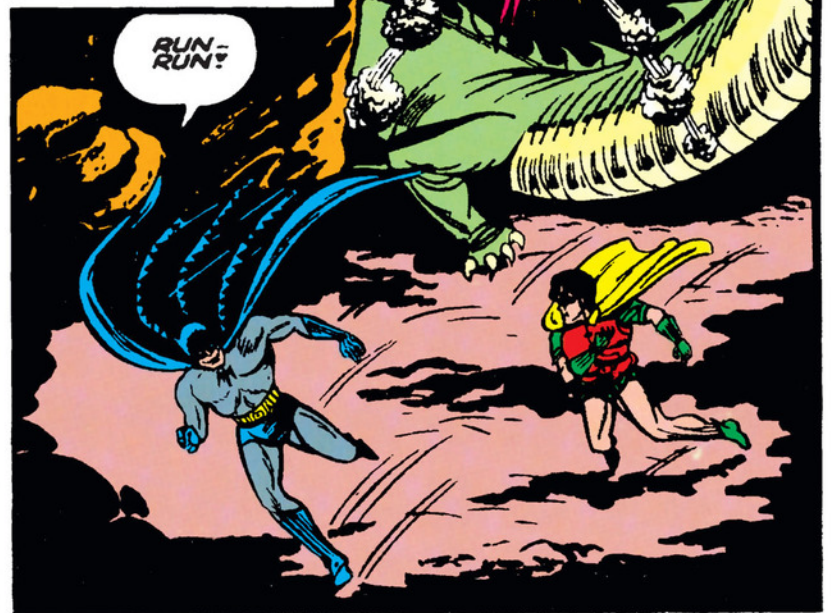
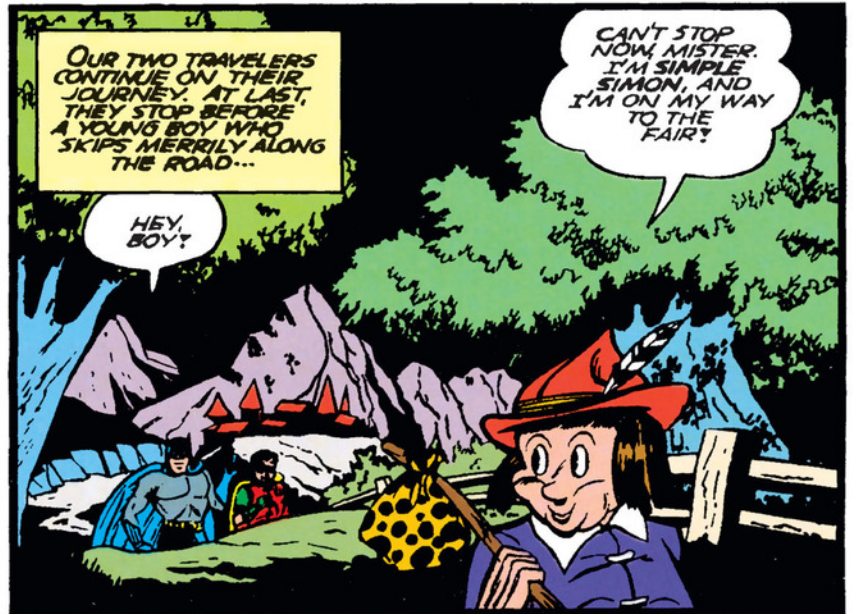


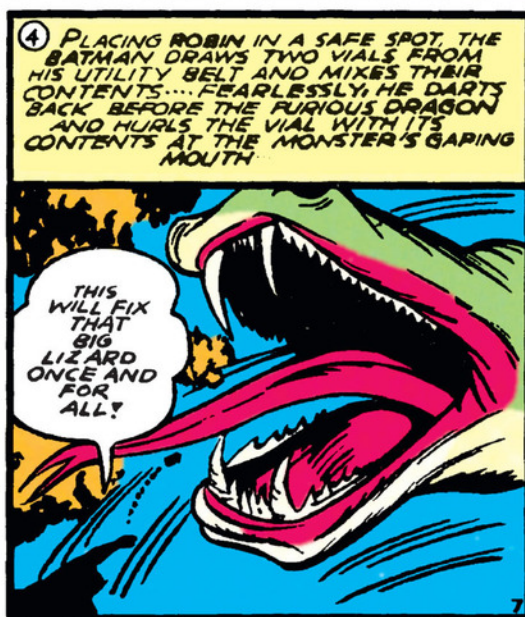
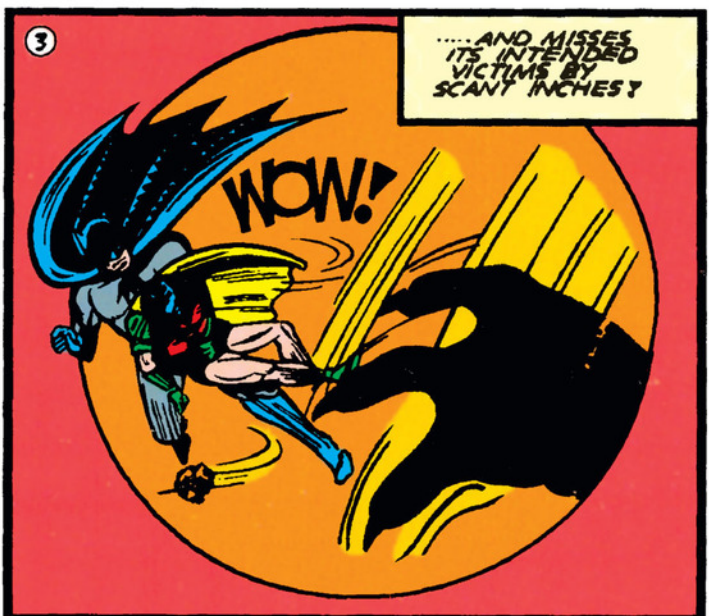
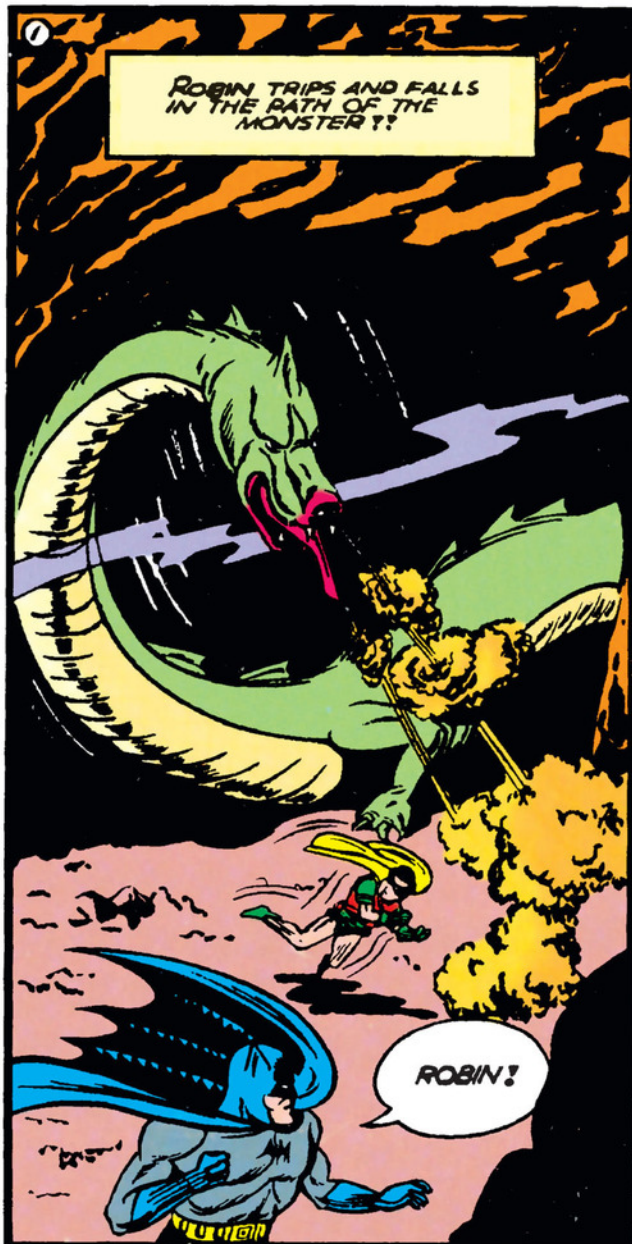
⑦ INSTANTLY, STEAM RISES FROM THEM... SCREAMS COME FROM THEIR OPEN MOUTHS...

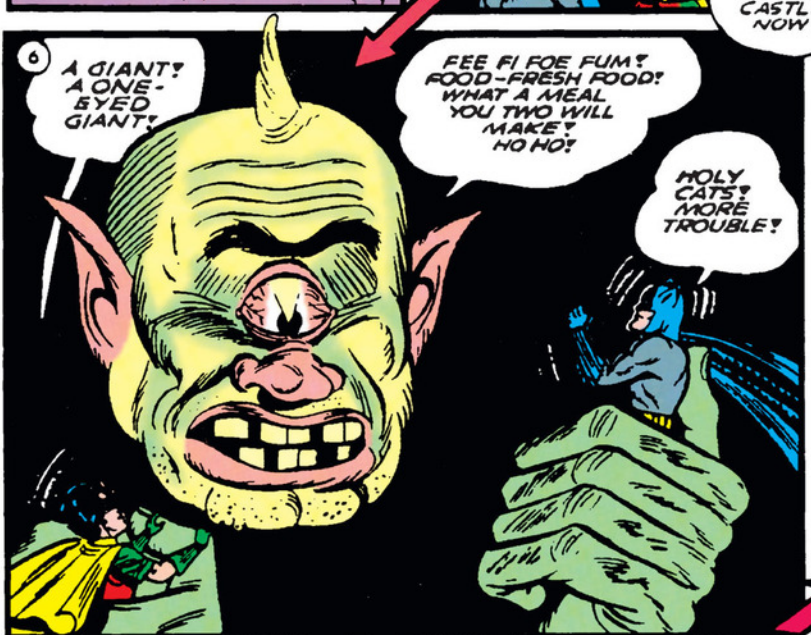
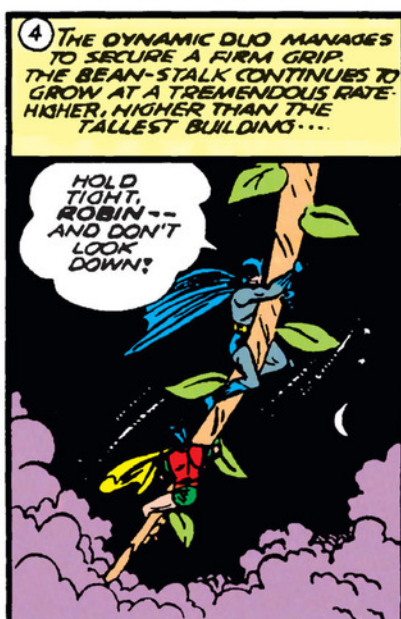
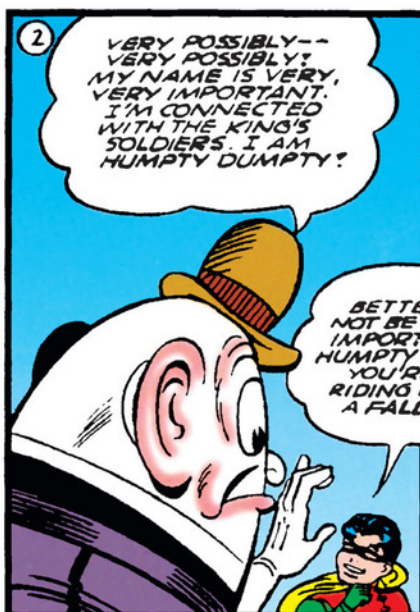
AAHHH!

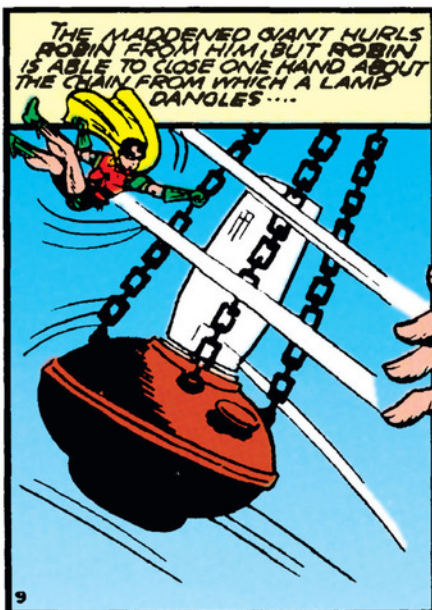
AA-IYEE!

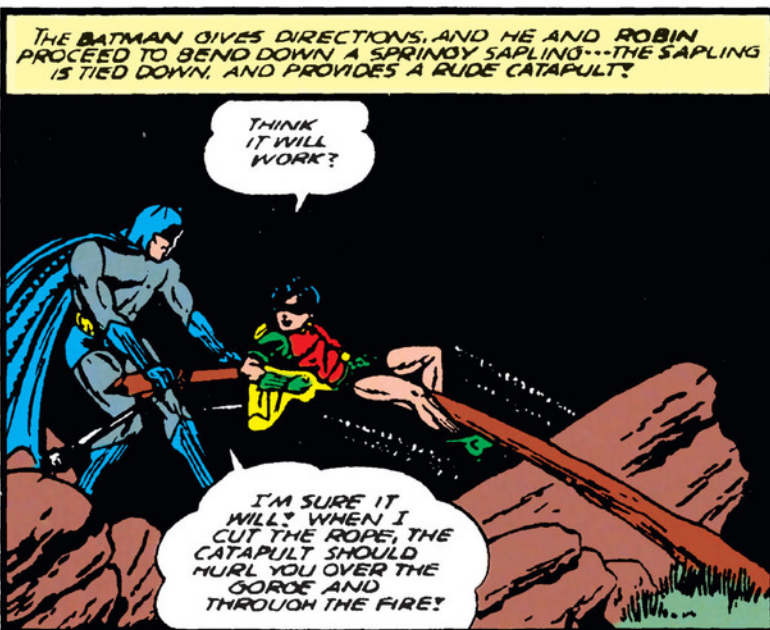
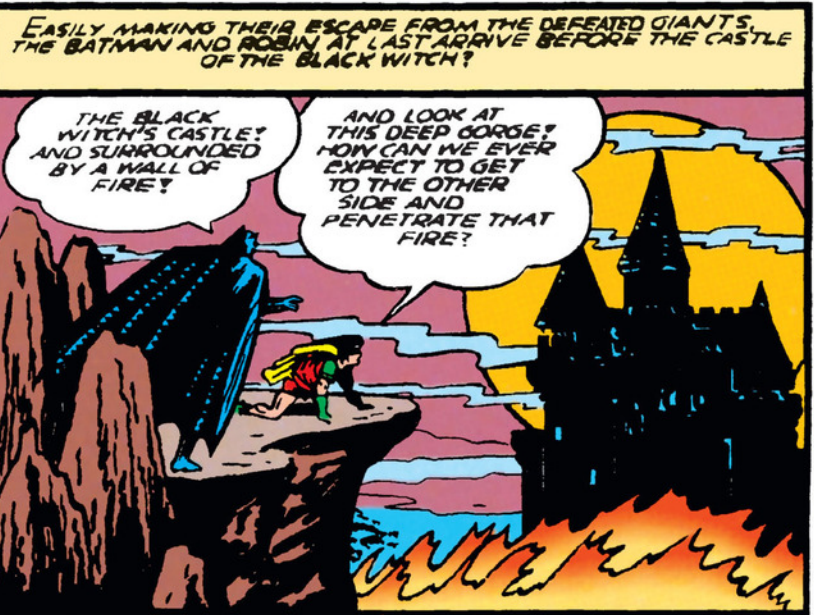








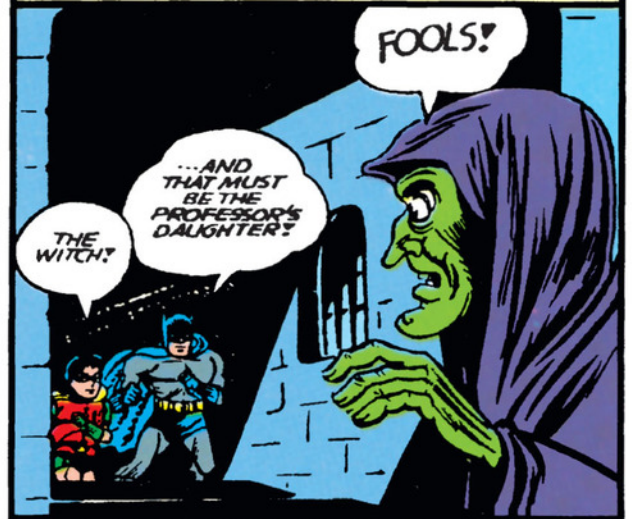




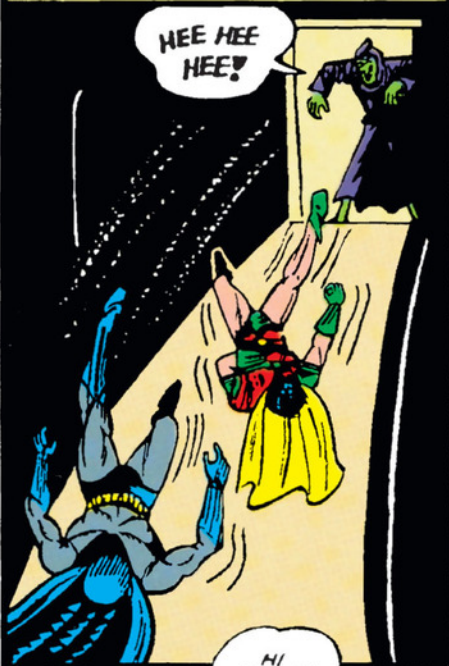
① BUT EVEN AS THE BATMAN ALIGHTS, HIGH UP IN ONE OF THE TOWERS, THE BLACK WITCH IS BENDING OVER A POT OF BOILING WATER....



② AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE WITCH LEANS TOWARD THE GIRL, SUDDENLY SHE WHIRLS AND SEES....



③ BUT THE WITCH IS QUICK...ONE SWIFT MOTION OF HER BONY HANDS AND THE STAIRS SUDDENLY BECOME SMOOTH...DOWN TUMBLE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN....



④ ...A STONE MOVES IN THE FLOOR...THEY TUMBLE THROUGH INTO THE TORTURE DUNGEON OF THE BLACK WITCH.

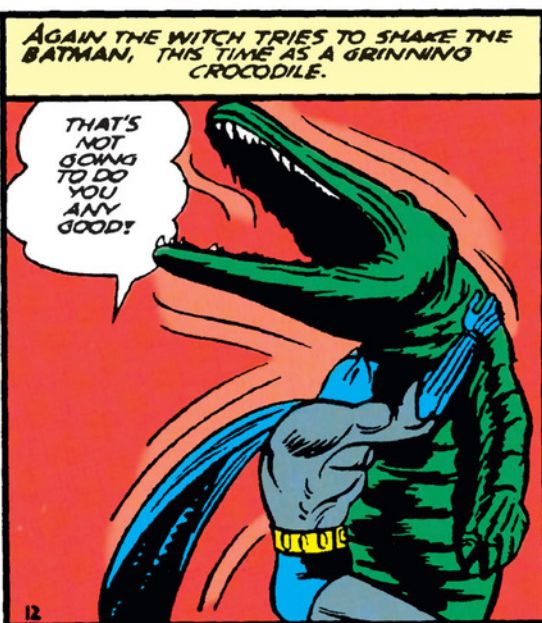
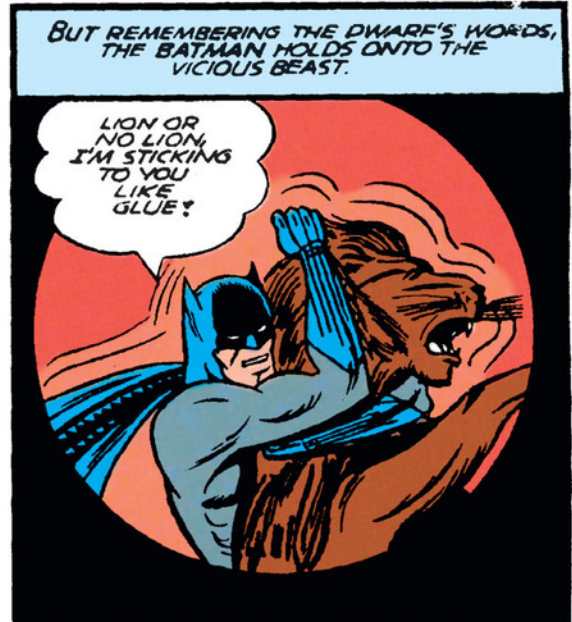
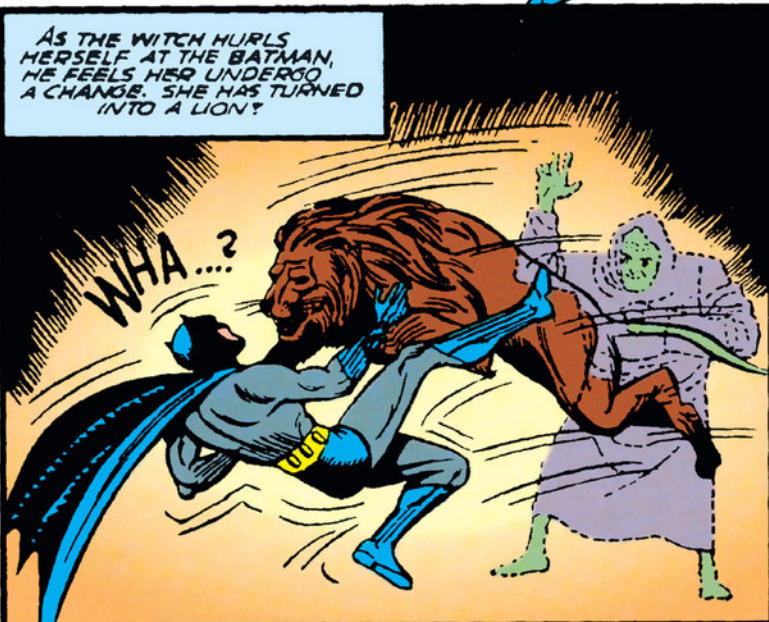
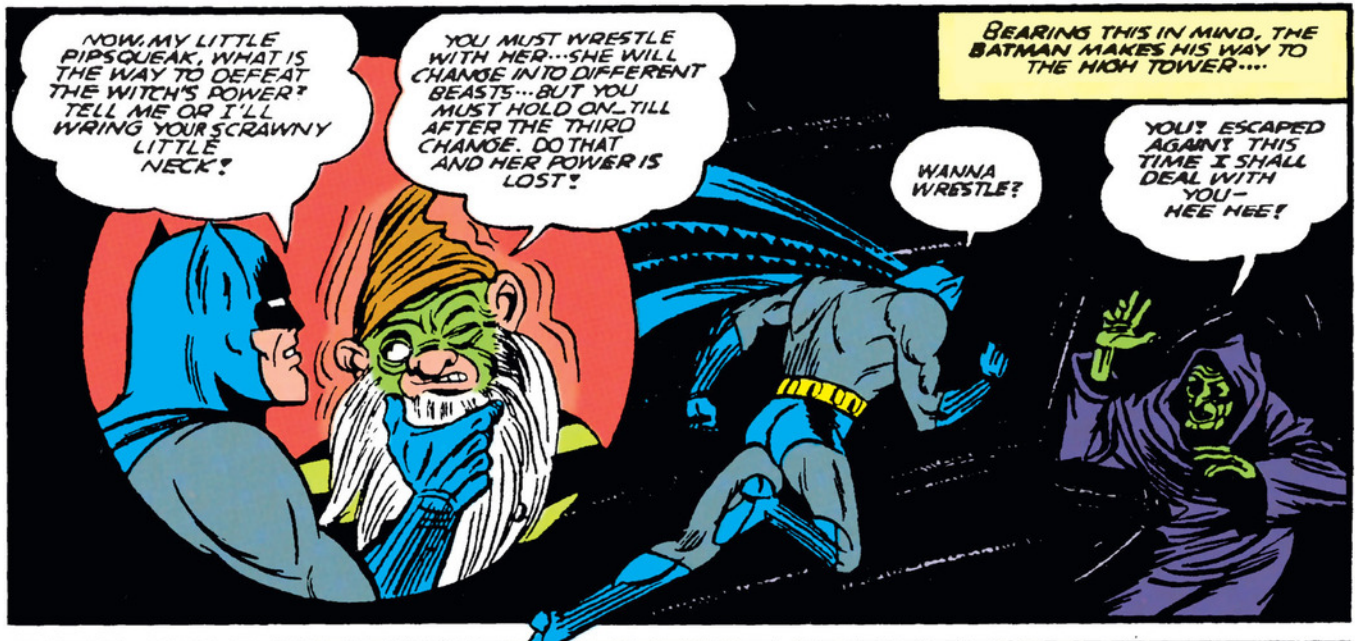


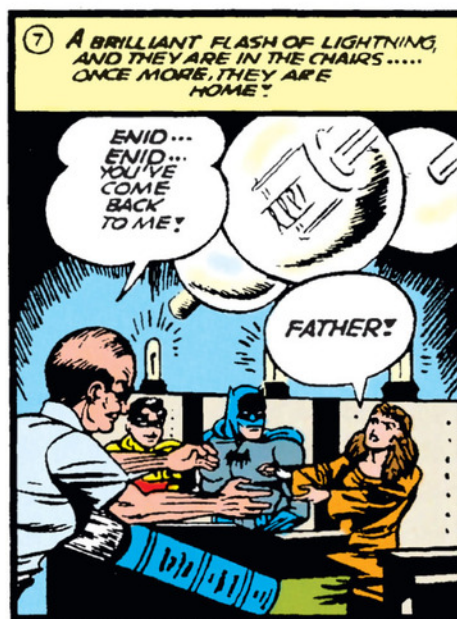
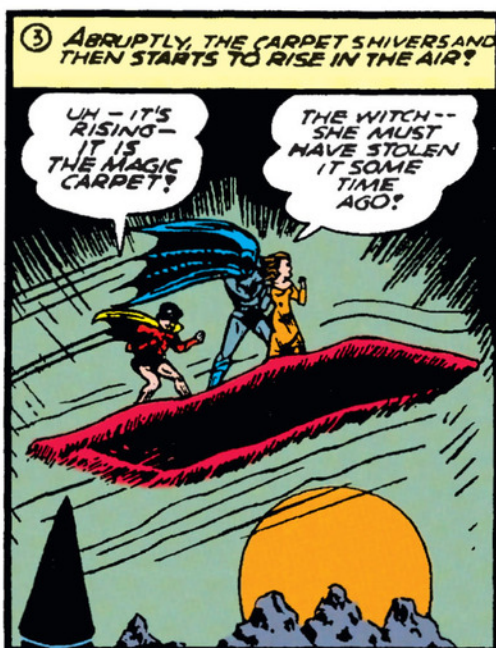
THE DYNAMIC DUO IS NOT TO BE TAKEN SO EASILY--

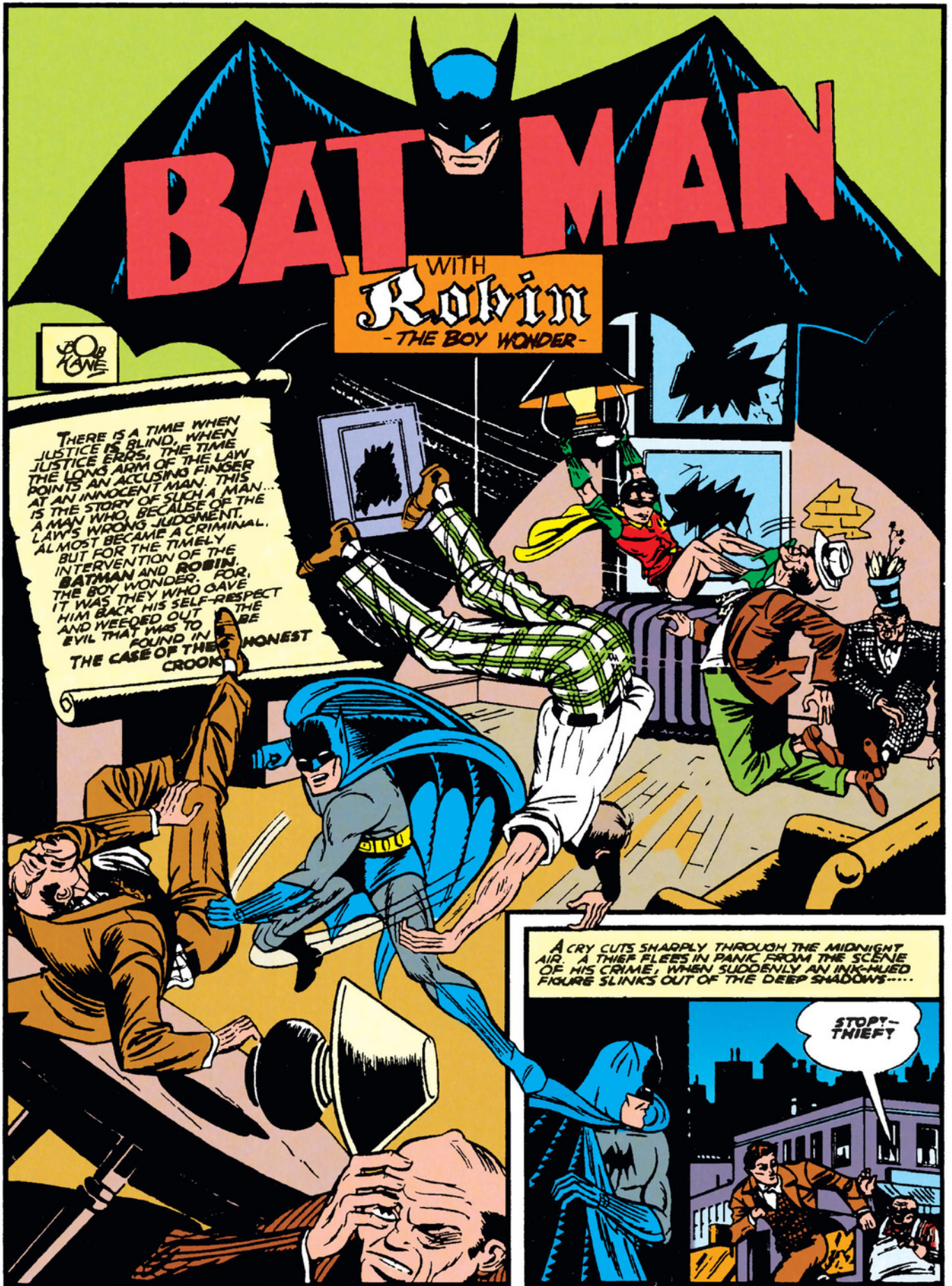


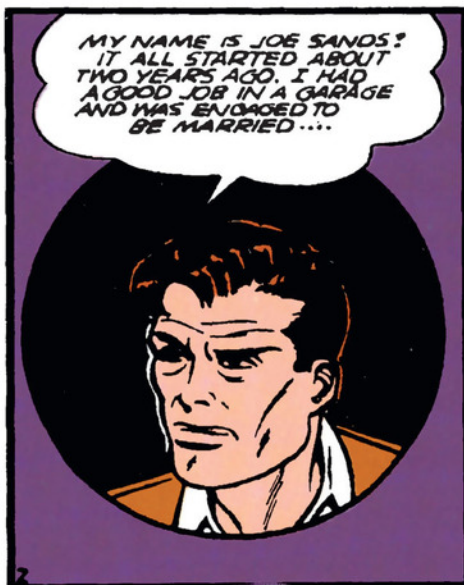
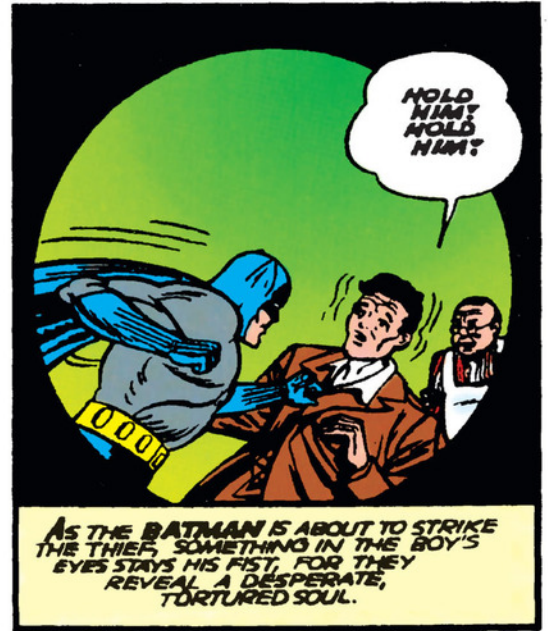
⑥ NOW TO CRACK A COUPLE OF NUTS?

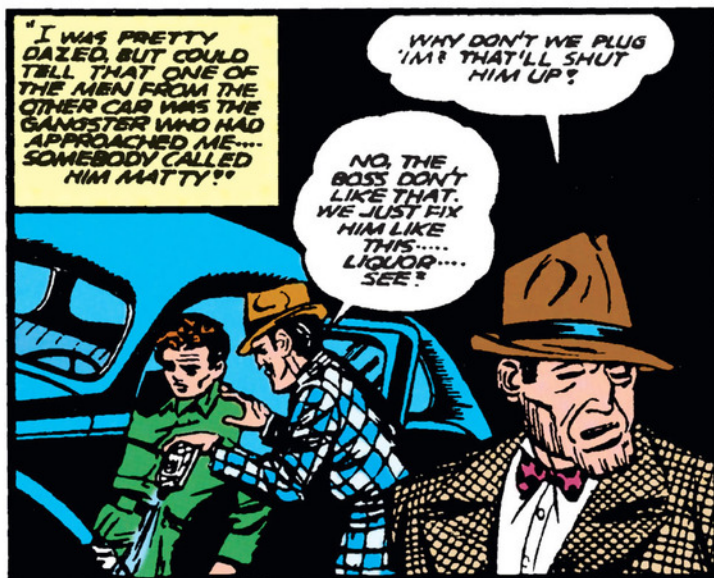
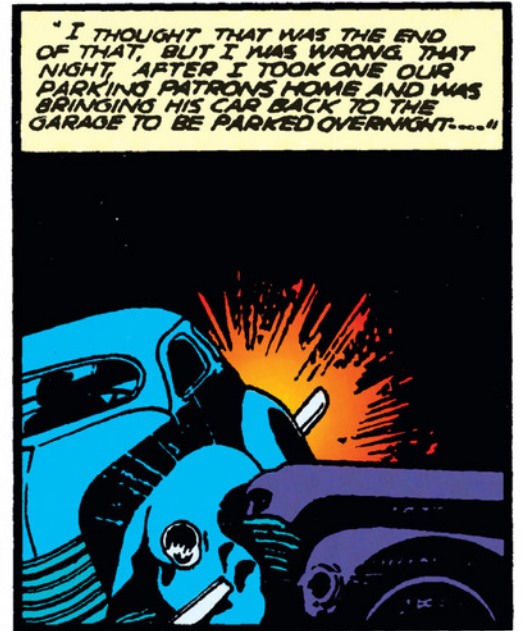


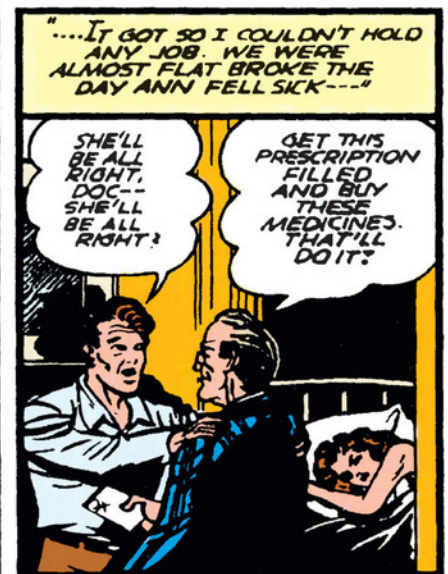
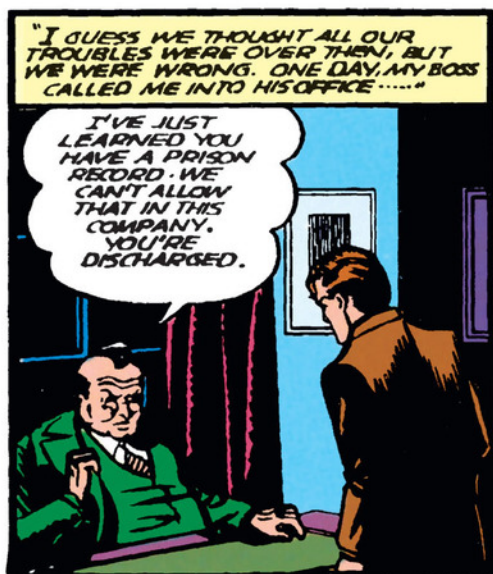
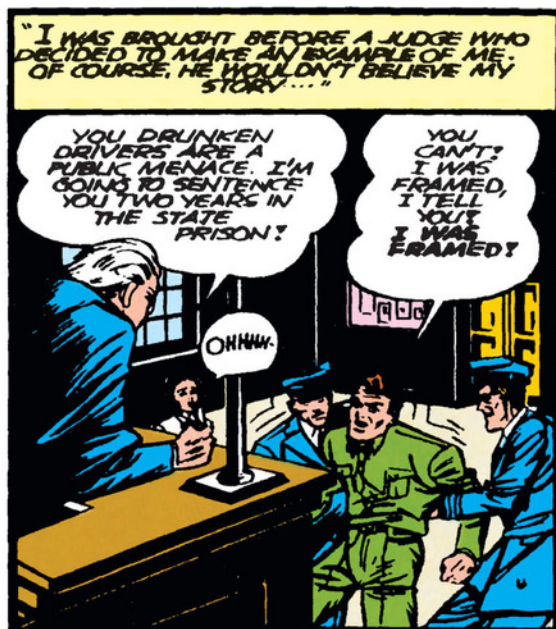


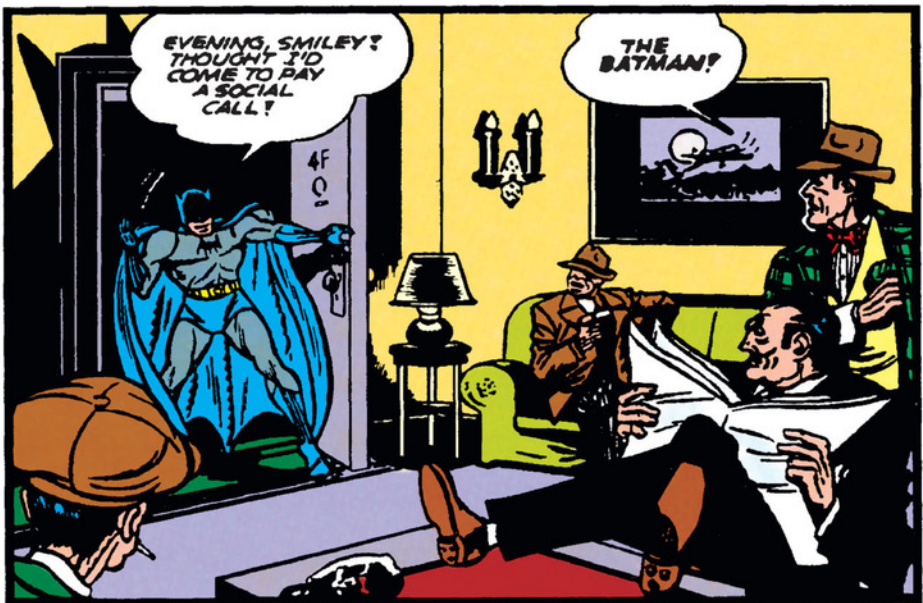
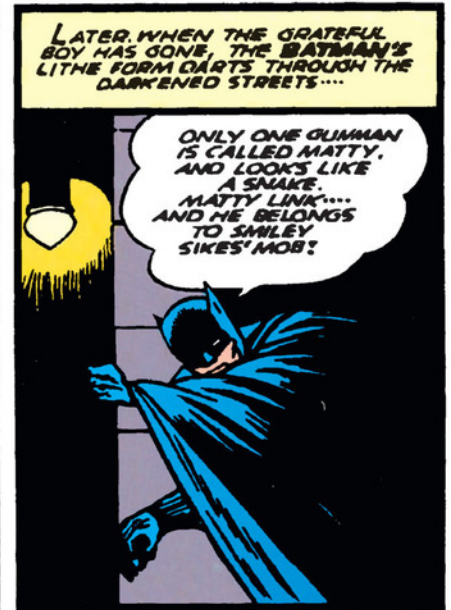


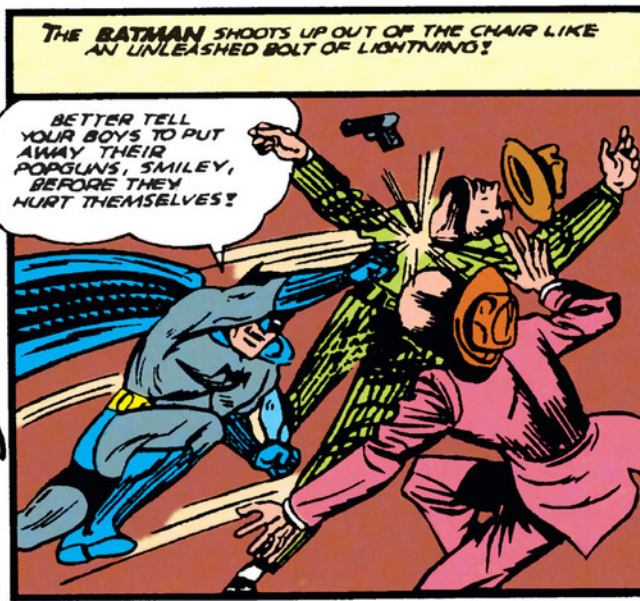
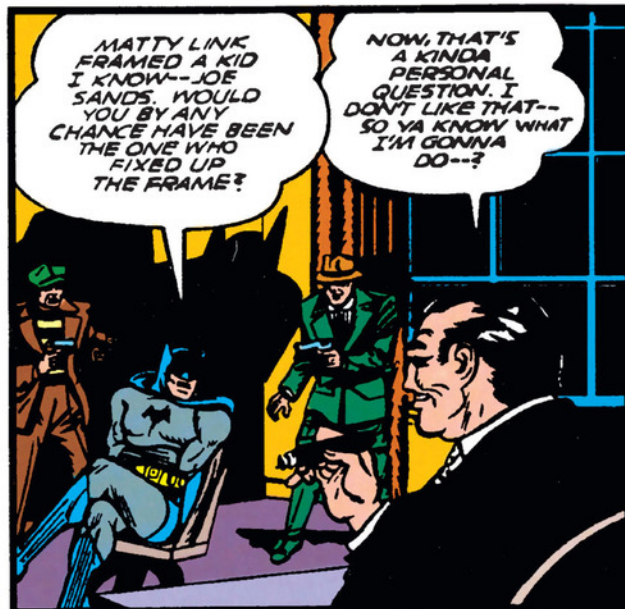
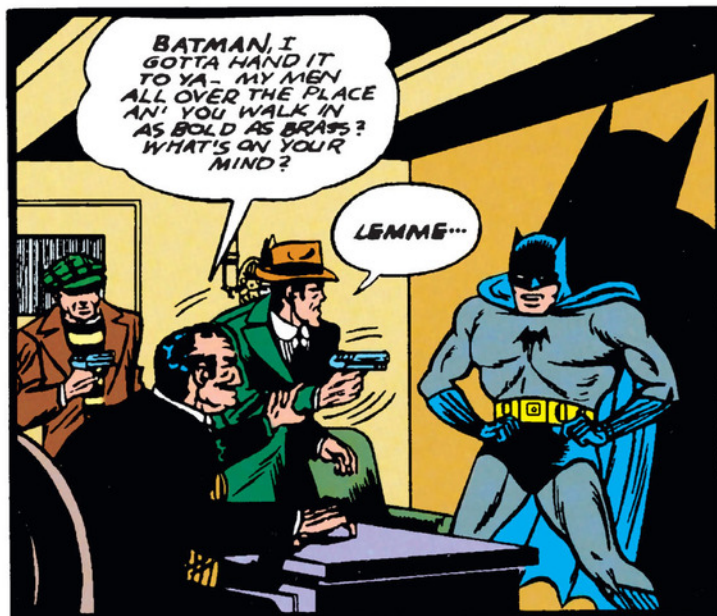


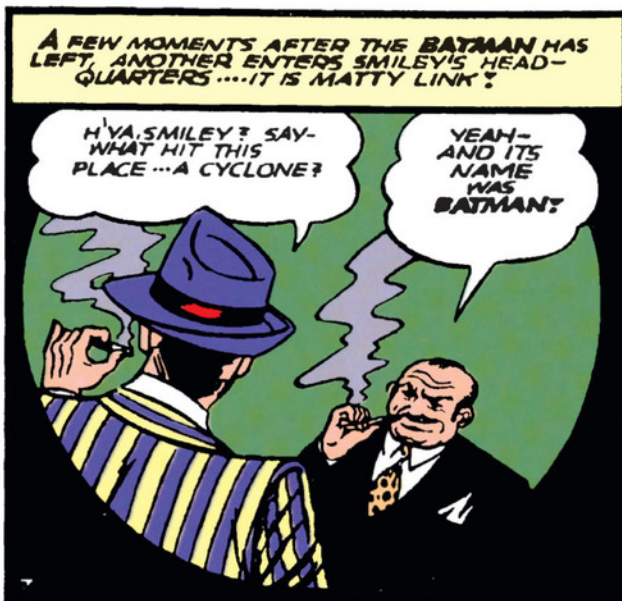
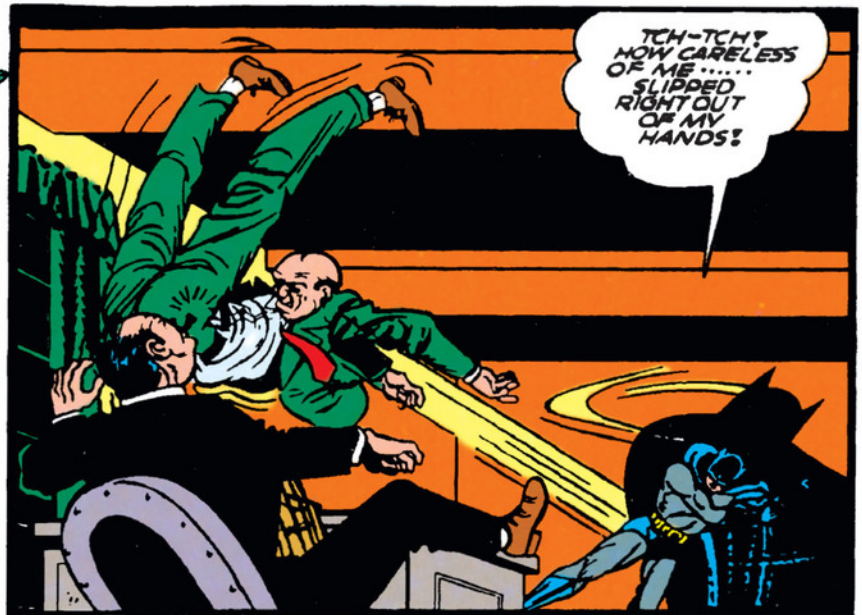












AFTER MATTY LEAVES....

I GOTTA HUNCH
THE BATMAN
IS GONNA TRY TO
MAKE MATTY TALK.
MAYBE MATTY
OUGHTA TAKE
A VACATION --
A PERMANENT
ONE?

YE-AN!

AND SO THE NEXT MORNING,
BRUCE WAYNE, IN REALITY
THE BATMAN, READS
STARTLING NEWS....

**I SHOULD HAVE
EXPECTED THIS.
SMILEY COVERS
HIMSELF
WELL!**

HE SPEAKS WITH HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WHOSE
OTHER SELF IS ROBIN, THE
BOY WONDER?

DICK, I WANT YOU TO SEARCH MATTY LINK'S ROOMS. MAYBE YOU CAN DIG UP SOMETHING LINKING HIM AND SMILEY WITH JOE SANDS.

**SURE
THING.
BRUCE!**

MAYBE THE POLICE
FOUND SOMETHING ON
MATTY'S BODY--SO-O-O.....
I SHALL VISIT MY GOOD
FRIEND, POLICE
COMMISSIONER GORDON,
AS BRUCE WAYNE,
SOCIETY PLAYBOY--AND
SEE WHAT I CAN
FIND OUT?

NIGHT HAS THROWN ITS
BLACK CLOAK OVER THE
CITY. A SLIM FIGURE MOVES
SWIFTLY AND SILENTLY UP THE
FIRE-ESCAPE OF THE LATE
MATTY LINK'S BOARDING
HOUSE....

BUT ROBIN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE ABOUT TO SEARCH MATTY'S ROOM, FOR AT THAT MOMENT-----

WHAT'S THE
IDEA OF US
SEARCHIN'
THE PLACE
ANYWAY?

SMILEY WANTS
TA MAKE SURE
THERE'S NOTHIN'
HERE THAT
MIGHT TIE HIM
UP WITH THIS
SANDS
KID?

HEY--LOOK--
A SHADOW--
SOMEONE'S
COMIN' UP THE
FIRE
ESCAPE?

DOUSE THE
LIGHTS!
LET'S DUCK,
IN ONE O'
THESE
CLOSETS.

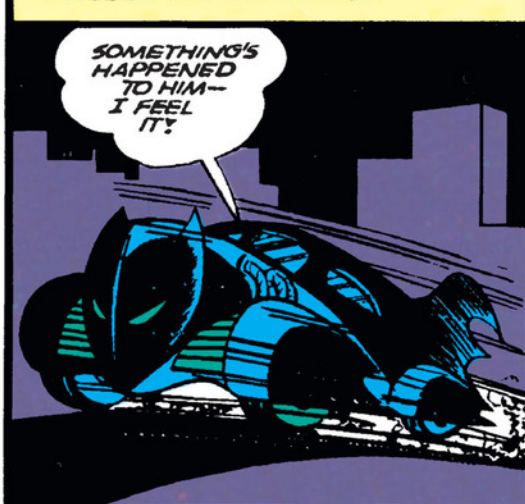
“Click”

THE SANDS OF TIME DROP SLOWLY. BRUCE HAS ALREADY REACHED HOME AND WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR ROBIN'S RETURN.



IT'S LATE... HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK HOURS AGO...

HASTILY, HE DONS HIS COSTUME. AN INSTANT LATER, HE SENDS THE WEIRD BATMOBILE STREAKING THROUGH THE CITY STREETS--



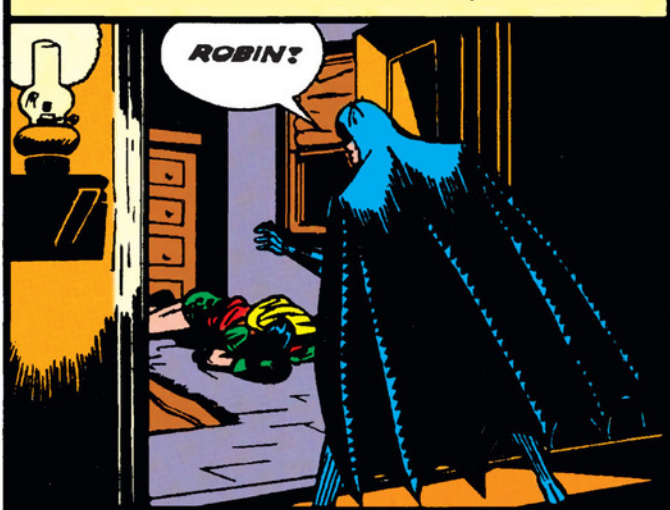
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM-- I FEEL IT!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMAN STOPS BEFORE THE DOOR OF MATTY'S ROOM....



THE STRANGEST FEELING JUST CAME OVER ME. I-I SEEM TO DREAD OPENING THIS DOOR--

A TOUCH OF THE KNOB, AND THE DOOR SLOWLY SWINGS OPEN. LIGHT FROM THE HALL LAMP ILLUMINATES A SMALL, STILL FIGURE ON THE FLOOR?



ROBIN?

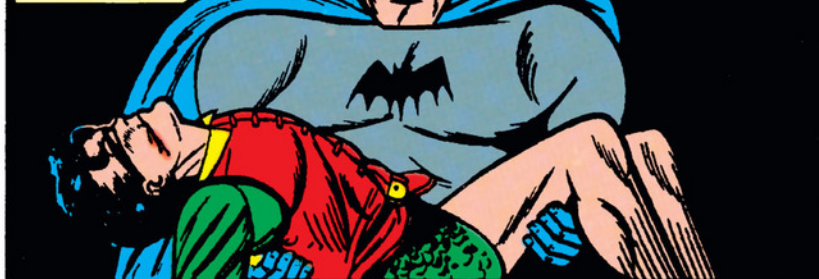


HIS HEAD... ALL BLOODY... HE'S BEEN CLUBBED... CLUBBED TO DEATH? ROBIN'S DEAD?!

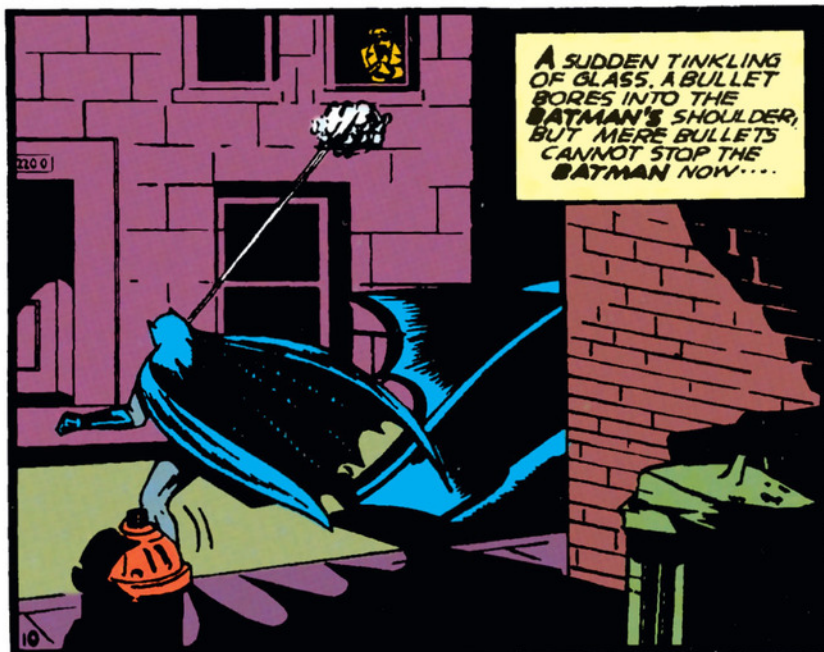
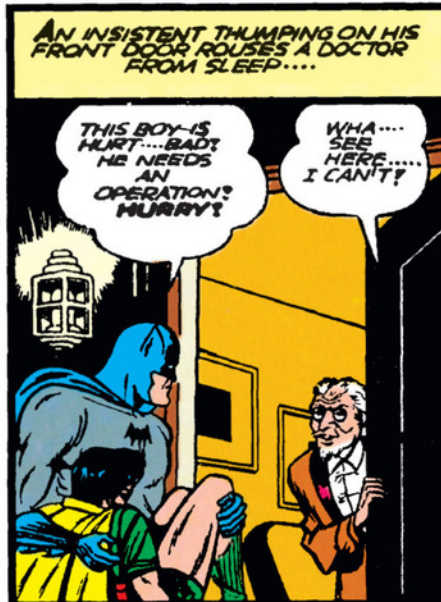
THE BATMAN, MAN WHO HAS FACED A THOUSAND DANGERS, MAN OF STRENGTH AND WILL-POWER, NOW BENDS HIS HEAD AND WEEPS. ANGUISHED SOBS ARE TORN FROM HIM!



SLOWLY, HIS GREAT FRAME STRAIGHTENS. SMALL VEINS STAND OUT ON HIS FEATURES. MUSCLES CORD IN HIS THROAT. HIS EYES BECOME FIRES, HIS MOUTH A KNIFE-EDGED LINE--



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BATMAN KNOWS RAGE, BLEAK, GRIM RAGE. WOE TO ALL CRIMINALS, FOR NOW, THE BATMAN HAS BECOME A TERRIBLE FIGURE OF VENGEANCE?



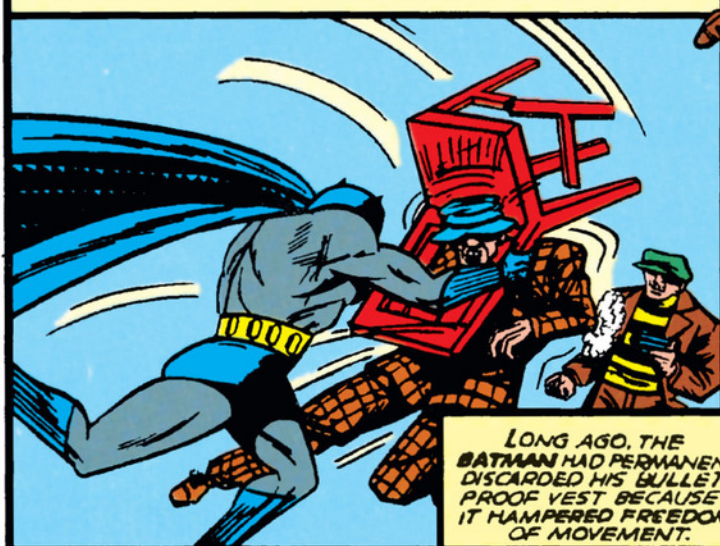
BUT THE BATMAN DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER WITH OPENING THE DOOR. THERE IS A CRASH.... THE WOOD SPLINTERS AS HIS BROAD SHOULDERS SMASH THROUGH.....



YOU MURDERING RATS--YOU WON'T FORGET THIS DAY!

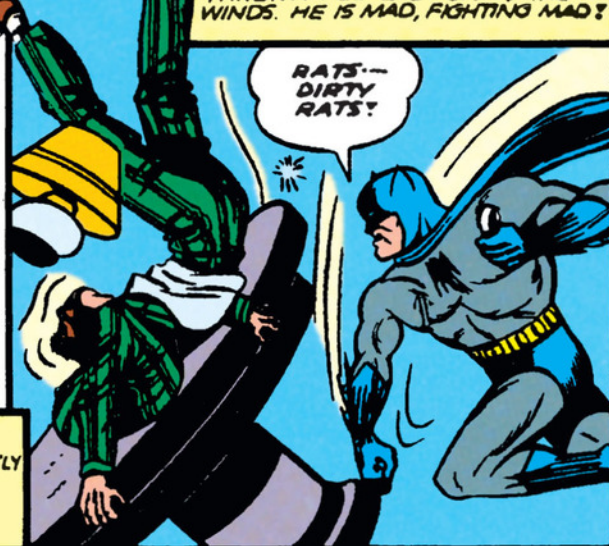


ANOTHER BULLET LODGES IN THE BATMAN'S SHOULDER BUT IT IS NO MORE THAN A FLEA BITE TO HIM NOW--

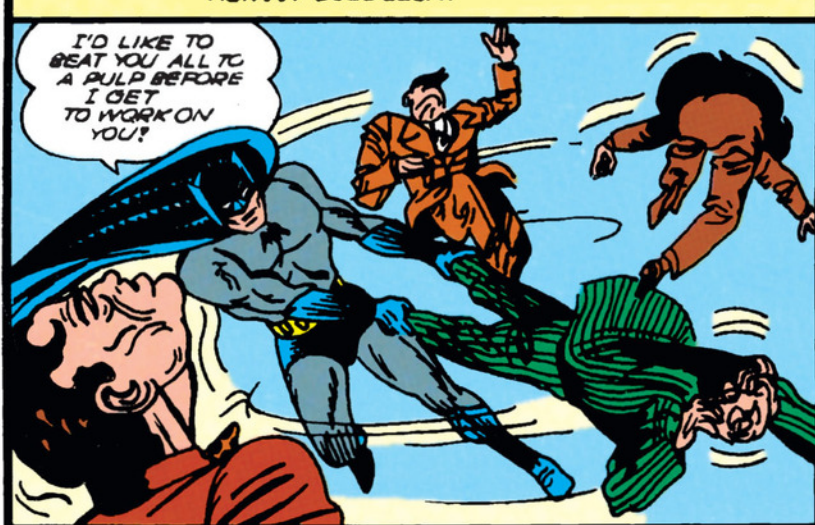


LONG AGO, THE BATMAN HAD PERMANENTLY DISCARDED HIS BULLET-PROOF VEST BECAUSE IT HAMPERED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

BY NOW, THE BATMAN HAS THROWN ALL CAUTION TO THE WINDS. HE IS MAD, FIGHTING MAD!

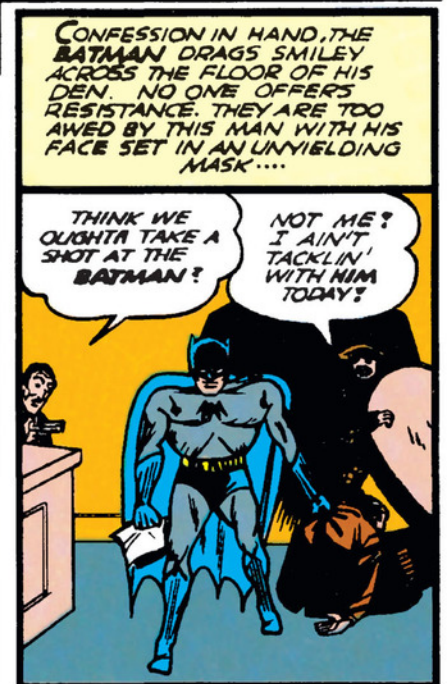
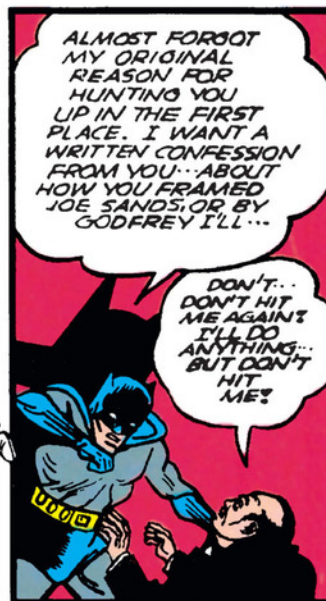
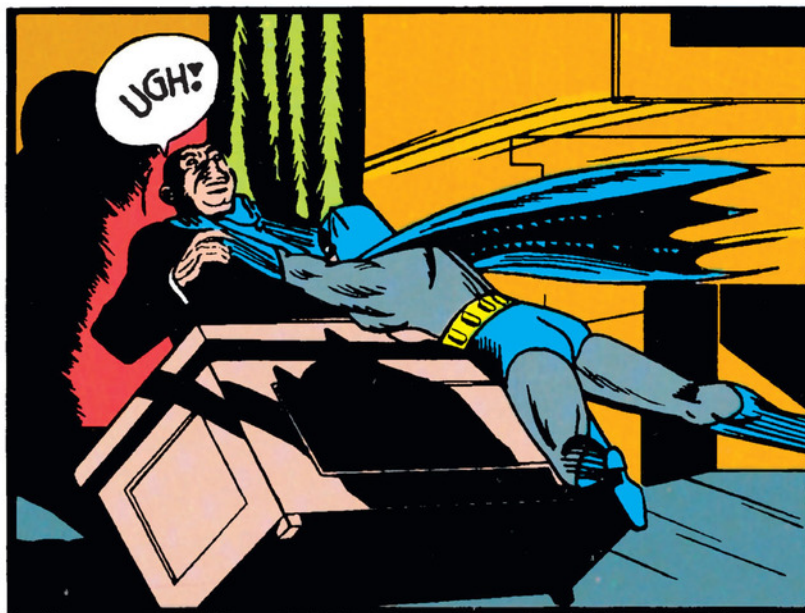
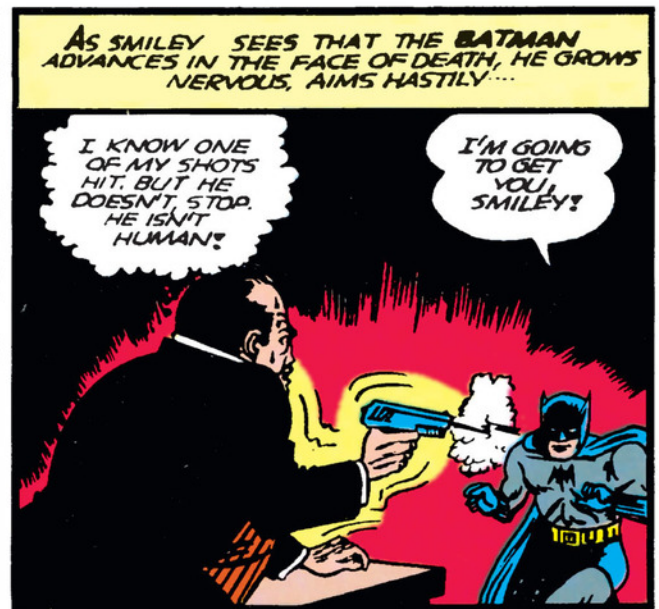
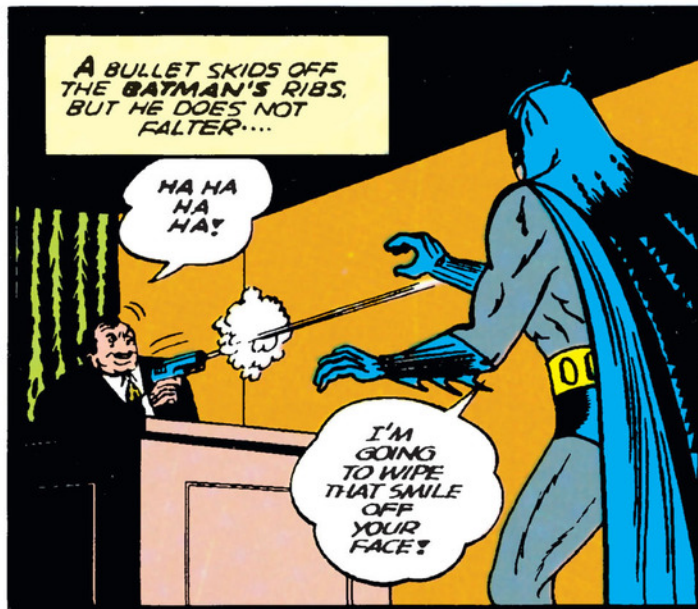


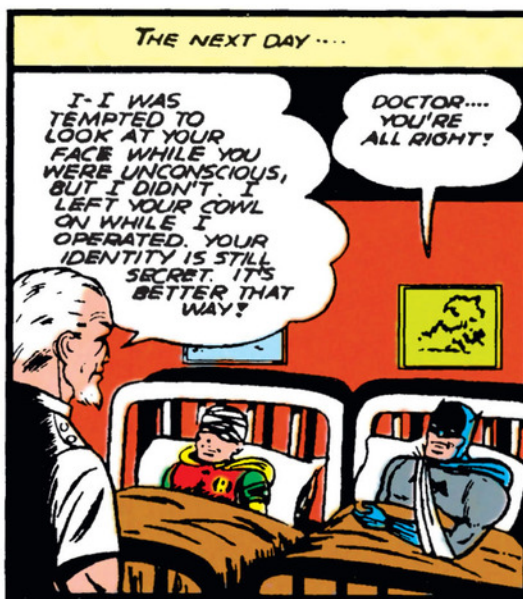
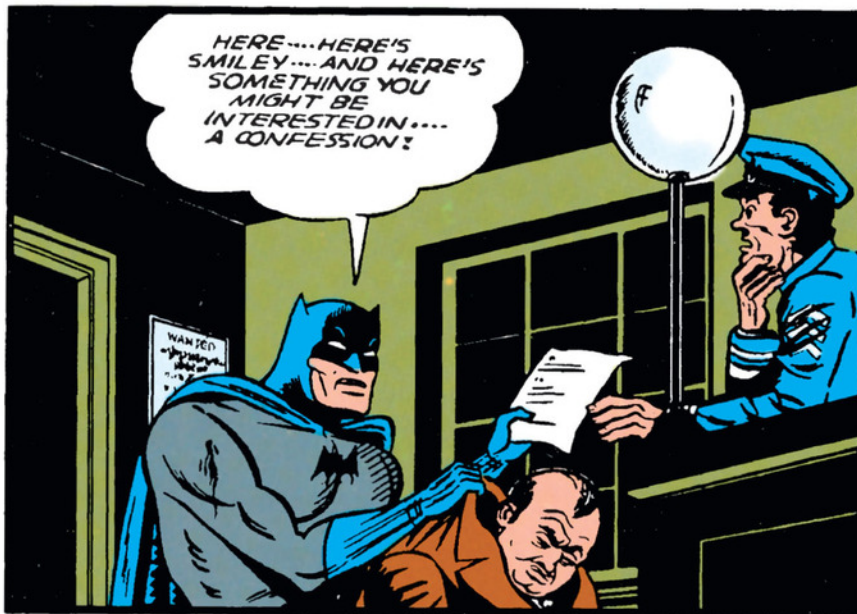
PICKING UP ONE HELPLESS THUG, THE BATMAN USES HIM AS A HUMAN BLUDGEON.



A BULLET SINGS ITS SONG OF DEATH AS IT HUMS PAST HIS EAR....







BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

BY
DOUG
TANE

WEIRD, STRANGE CREATURE
OF DARKNESS, MYSTERIOUS AS
NIGHT ITSELF. THIS IS THE
BATMAN, NEMESIS OF CRIME.
AT HIS SIDE LIKE A STRONG RIGHT
ARM IS HIS YOUNG ALLY, ROBIN.
THE BOY WONDER. IT IS
NO LITTLE WONDER THEY ARE
THEY ARE THE GREATEST
CRIME-BUSTING TEAM
FOR THE WORLD HAS EVER
KNOWN. FOLLOW THEM
IN THIS THEIR LATEST
ADVENTURE, AS THEY PROVE
ONCE AGAIN TO AN ERRING BOY
THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY!!

FOR MANY DAYS
NOW, A MYSTERIOUS
BAND OF BANK
ROBBERS HAS BEEN
TERRORIZING
GOTHAM CITY.
ON THIS PARTICULAR
AFTERNOON, THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
ARE JUST IN TIME
TO WITNESS
ANOTHER
DARING
HOLDUP.....

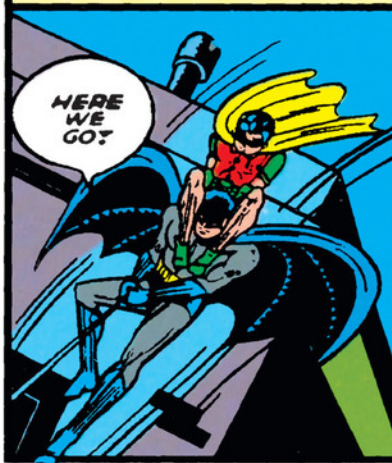
THE BANK
ROBBERS--
WE'VE GOT
TO GET
DOWN
THERE!

WE'LL NEVER
MAKE IT IN
TIME. THAT
LAMP POST...
IT GIVES
ME AN
IDEA!

① THE BATMAN TWIRLS HIS STRONG, SILKEN ROPE OVER HIS HEAD.....



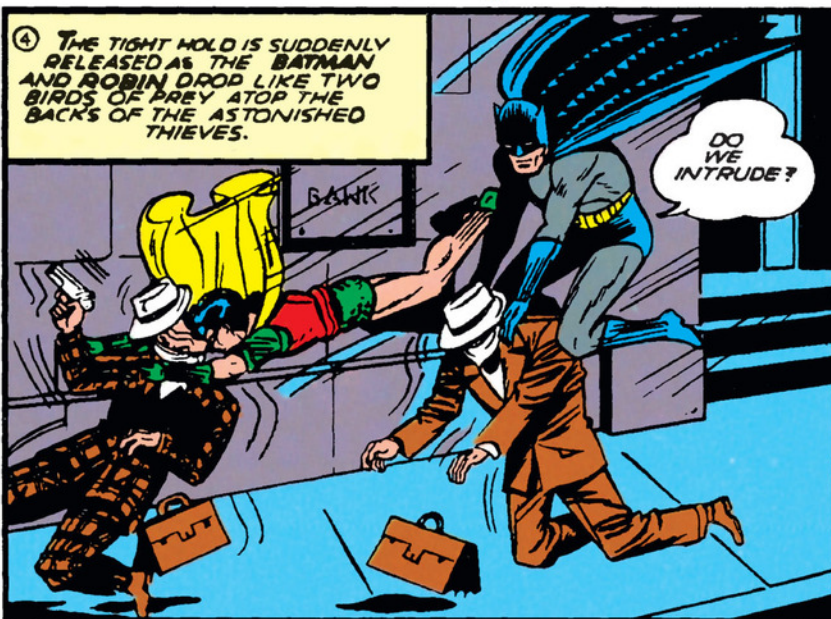
② THE ROPE CATCHES ABOUT THE LAMPOST. ROBIN CLAMBERS ONTO THE BATMAN'S BROAD SHOULDERS....AND THE DUO SWINGS OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE



③ BELOW THEM, THE DEPTHS OF THE BUILDING STRETCH SHEER AND DIZZY LIKE A GREAT CANYON. DOWN THEY SWING IN A BREATHTAKING DROP.



④ THE TIGHT HOLD IS SUDDENLY RELEASED AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DROP LIKE TWO BIRDS OF PREY ATOP THE BACKS OF THE ASTONISHED THIEVES.



⑤ AS THE BATMAN MOVES TOWARD A HOODLUM, SUDDENLY ANOTHER DARTS FORWARD AND PUSHING THE OTHER OUT OF HARM'S WAY, TURNS TO FACE THE CRIME-FIGHTER HIMSELF



IN THE MELEE, THE RESCUED HOODLUM'S KERCHIEF FALLS AND THE BATMAN CATCHES A QUICK GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE....



IT IS THE FACE OF A BOY... A BOY WHO IS SCARED STIFF?

BUT THAT GLIMPSE IS ALL THE BATMAN IS ABLE TO GET, FOR HE IS FORCED FOR THE MOMENT TO FLING HIMSELF TO THE SIDE AS A BULLET WHINES PAST HIM....



THAT MOMENT IS ALL THE CROOKS NEED. SWIFTLY GATHERING UP THEIR FALLEN COMPANIONS, THEY PILE INTO THEIR CAR AND SPEED OFF...



LIKE AN IMPATIENT STEED STRAINING AT THE REINS, THE BATMOBILE SHIVERS AS ITS SUPER-CHARGED MOTOR THROBS WITH ENERGY... AND AN INSTANT LATER IT TEARS AFTER THE FLEEING HOODLUMS.



NEARER AND NEARER DRAWS THE BATMOBILE AS THE CHASE TAKES THE CARS WHIPPING AROUND CORNERS, ROARING UP STREETS...



ABRUPTLY, THE BATMOBILE STREAKS SCREAMING ABOUT A CORNER TOWARD THE BANDITS' CAR... ONLY TO FIND THEY ARE...



BUT THEY CAN BE TRACED BY THE CAR... AND THEN THE POLICE WILL SEARCH THESE HOUSES...

THE CAR WAS PROBABLY STOLEN... AND THEY'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THE POLICE WON'T BELIEVE THEY'LL BE STUPID ENOUGH TO REVEAL THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD?



I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY THAT BANDIT PROTECTED THE OTHER AT THE RISK OF HIMSELF... SO I'M COMING BACK TO INVESTIGATE TOMORROW... AS BRUCE WAYNE?



ACCORDINGLY, THE BATMAN COSTUME IS DISCARDED, AND THE NEXT DAY IT IS BRUCE WAYNE, PLAYBOY OF SOCIETY, WHO SAUNTERS DOWN THE STREET, WHEN....

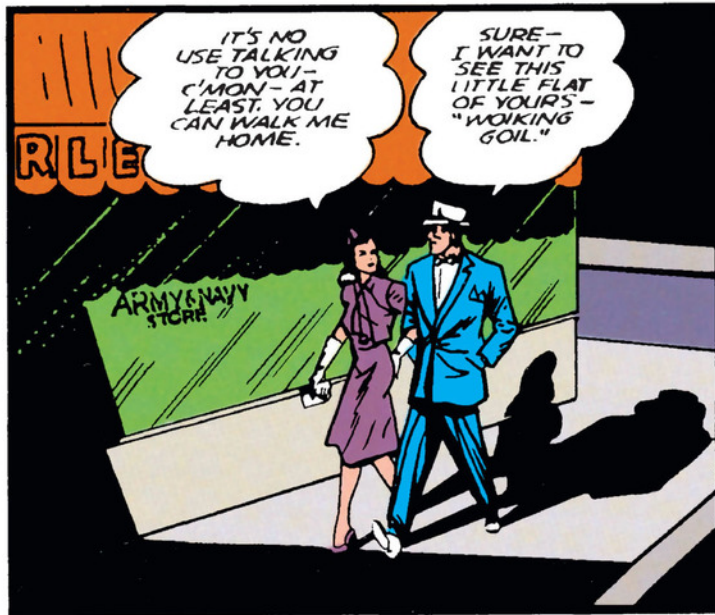


YOU BIG APE...WHY DON'T YOU LOOK---
BRUCE---
BRUCE WAYNE?



TELL THE CROWD I WOKE UP ONE DAY TO REALIZE THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN CAFE SOCIETY--SO-O-O...I'VE MOVED OUT AND BECOME A NURSE?

A NURSE? YOU...YOU GAVE UP A PLACE IN SOCIETY TO WORK FOR A LIVING? ITS...IT'S STUPID?



AS THEY NEAR LINDA'S MODEST APARTMENT BUILDING....



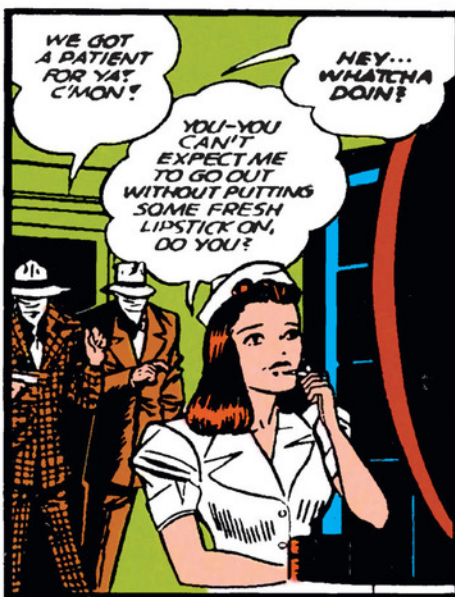
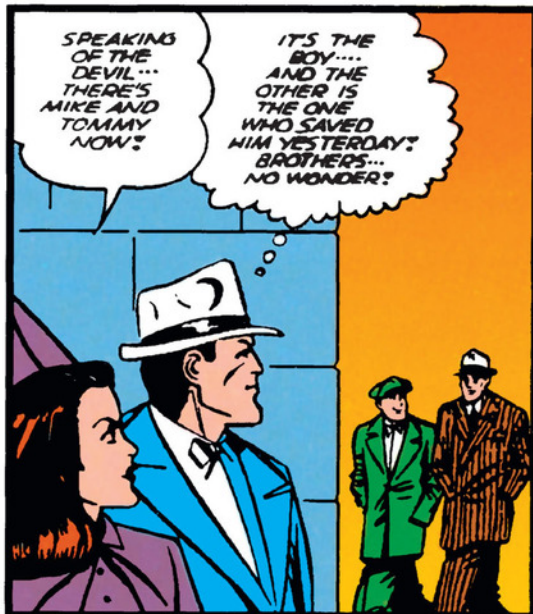
TOMMY-- BOY GIVING HER TROUBLE?

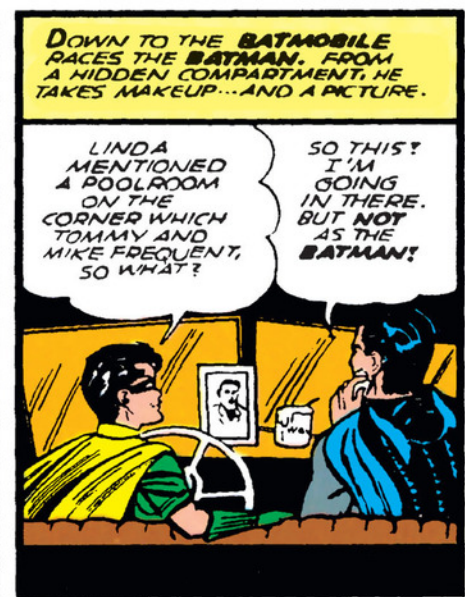
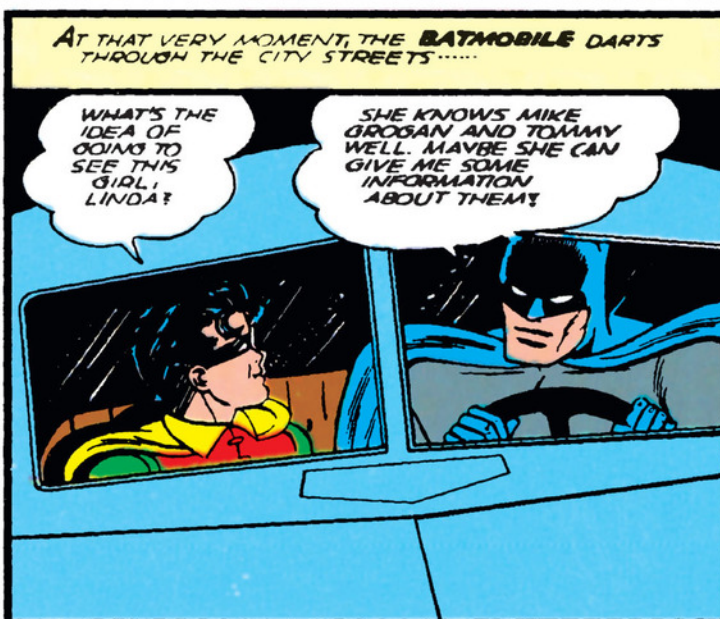
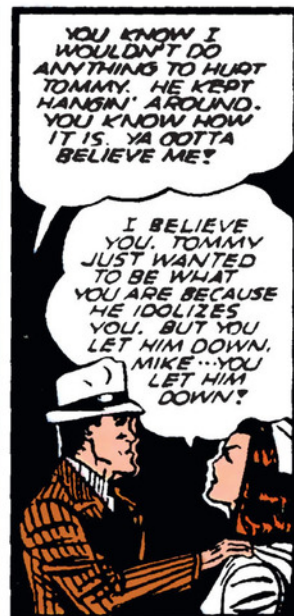


TOMMY HAS AN OLDER BROTHER, MIKE, WHO IS A GANGSTER. TOMMY IDOLIZES HIS BROTHER MIKE BECAUSE HE'S GOOD TO HIM AND.....

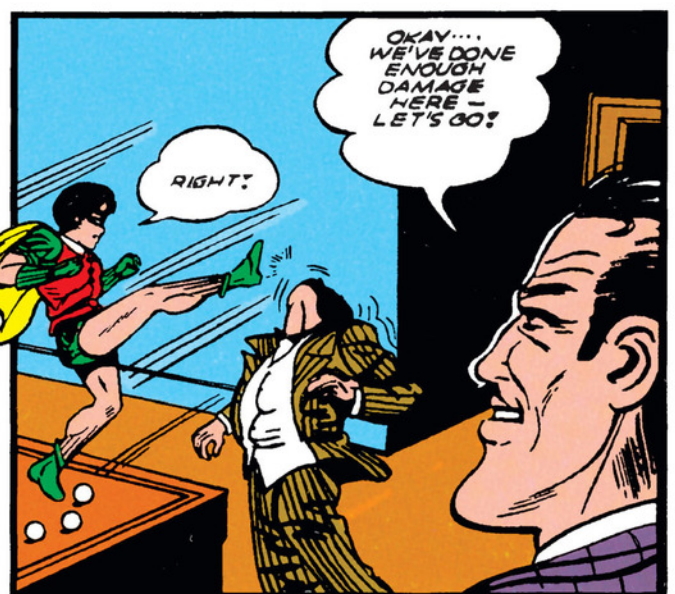
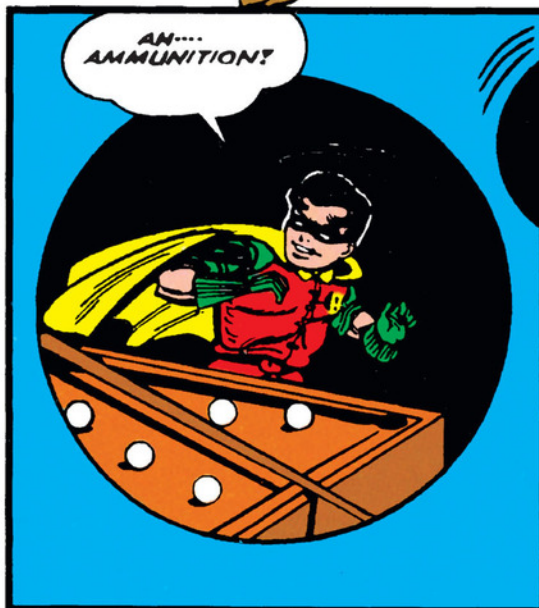
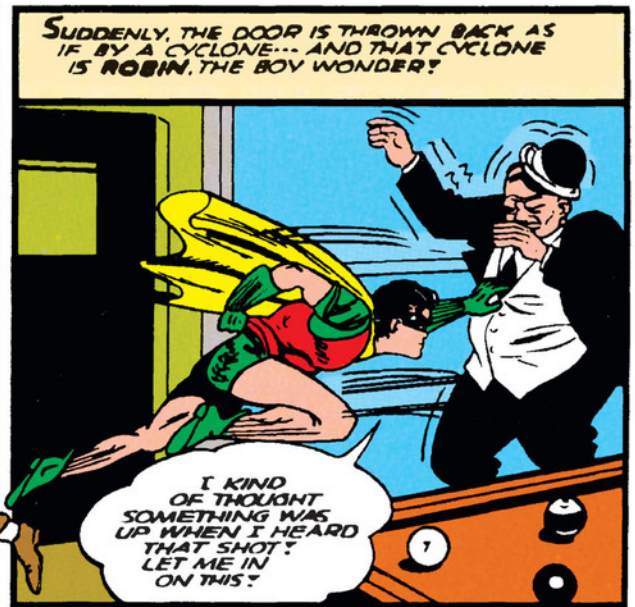
AND HIS MOTHER IS AFRAID HE'LL FOLLOW IN MIKE'S FOOTSTEPS. THE USUAL STORY?



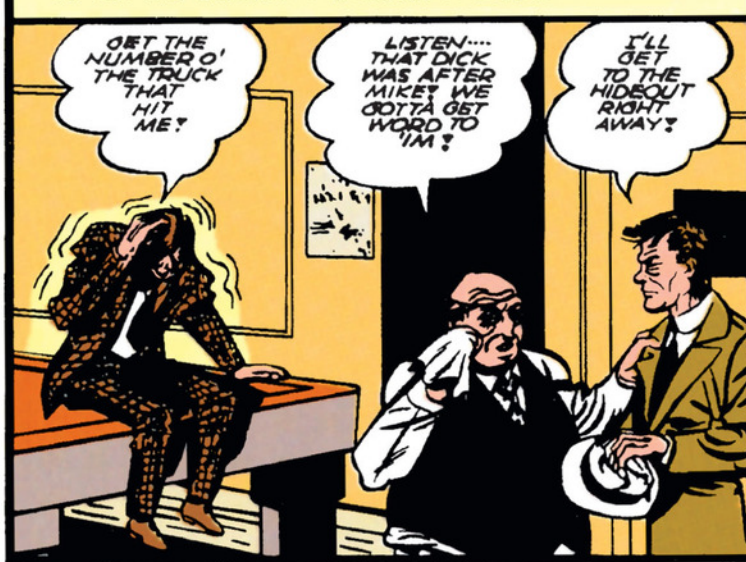




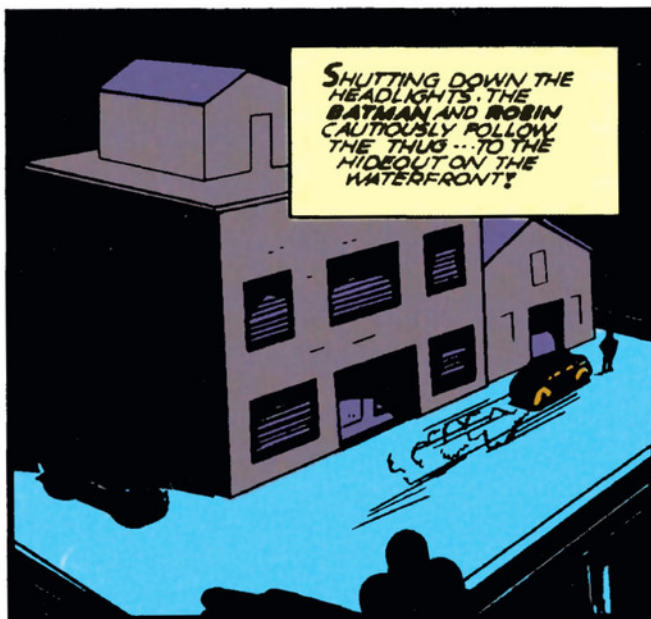
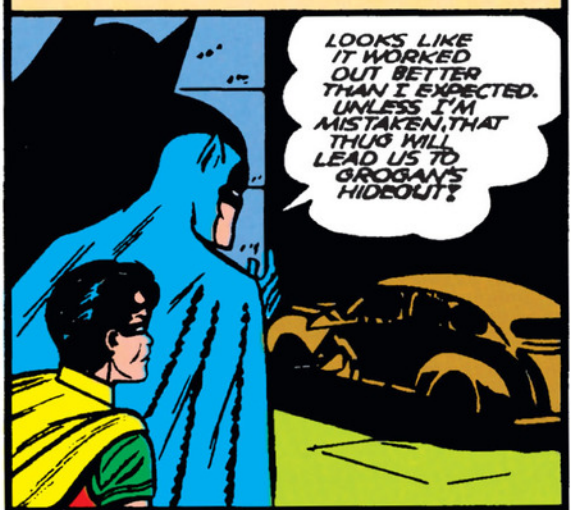


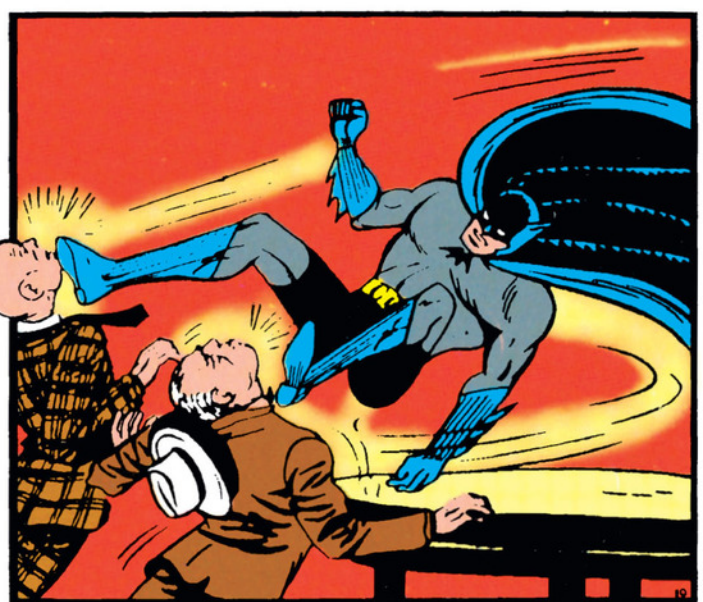
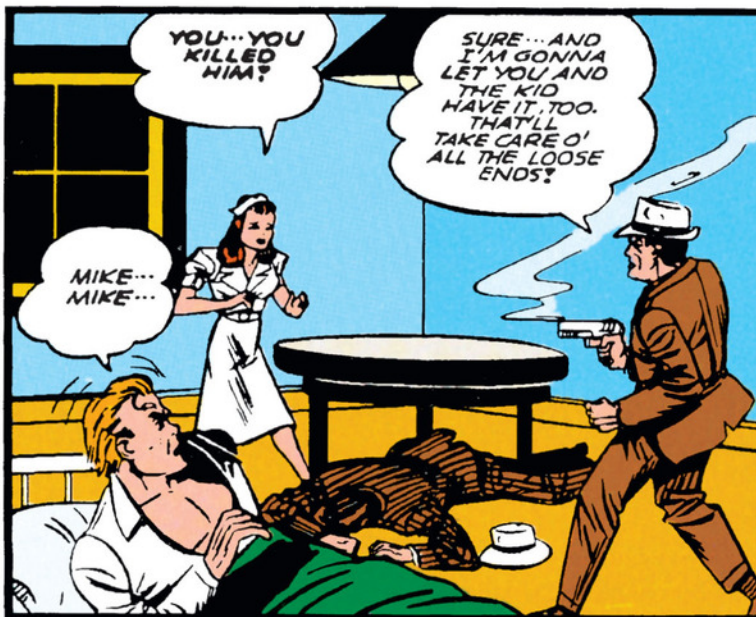


AFTER THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GONE....

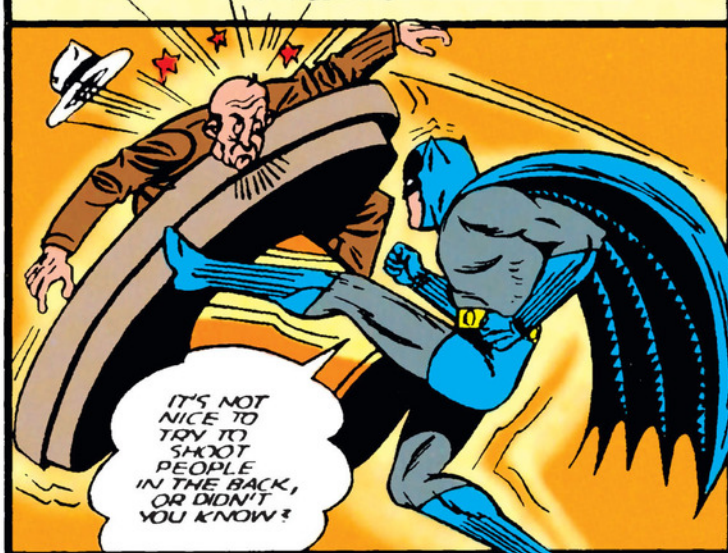


AS THE HOODLUM RUSHES TO HIS CAR, THE BATMAN, WHO HAS REMOVED THE MAKEUP OF "TRIGGER" BURNS, AND ROBIN WATCH FROM THE CORNER....





SENSING DANGER, THE BATMAN SUDDENLY WHIRLS AND.....



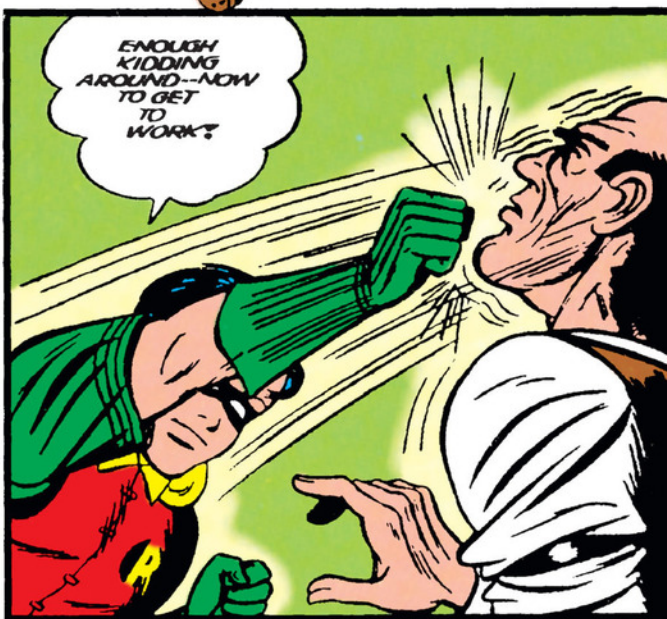
MEANWHILE, ROBIN IS HAVING SOME FUN....



...WITH PLEASURE?

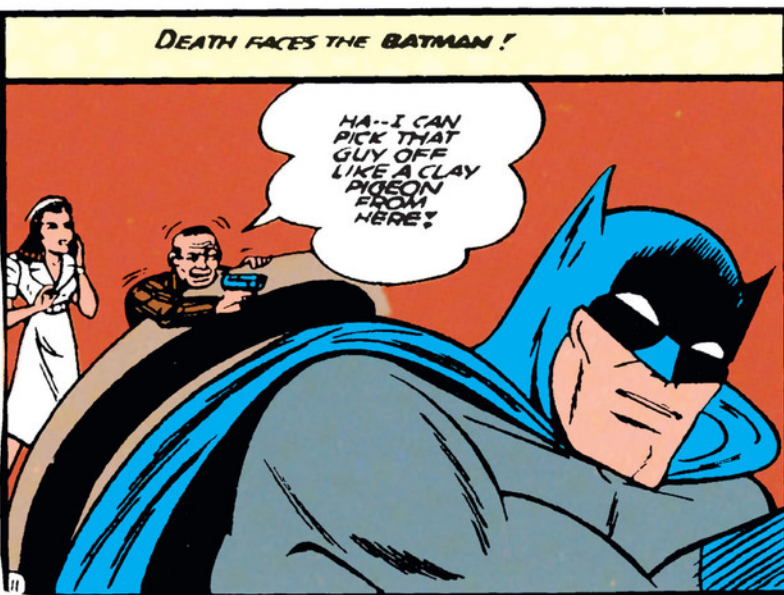


ENOUGH KIDDING AROUND--NOW TO GET TO WORK?



DEATH FACES THE BATMAN!

HA--I CAN PICK THAT GUY OFF LIKE A CLAY PIGEON FROM HERE?



TRY TO SHOOT THE BATMAN, WILL YOU? TAKE THAT...AND THAT...AND THAT?

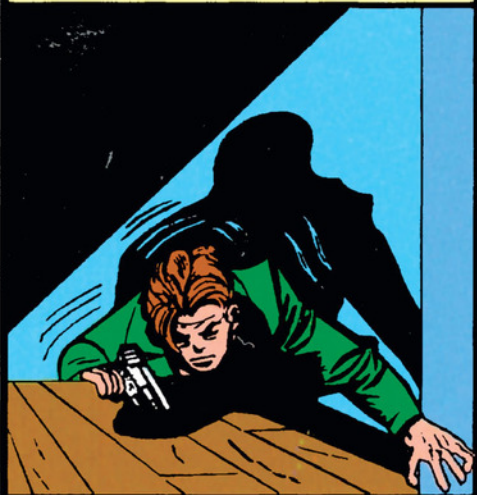
HEY? OW-- LEGGO?



UNNOTICED, A FIGURE DROPS OFF THE COT, PICKS UP A GUN AND STAGGERS TO THE DOORWAY...IT IS TOMMY--



THE WOUNDED BOY DRAGS HIS PAIN-WRACKED, WEAKENED BODY UP THE STAIRS. ONCE--TWICE, HE FALTERS, BUT UP...UP HE CLIMBS....



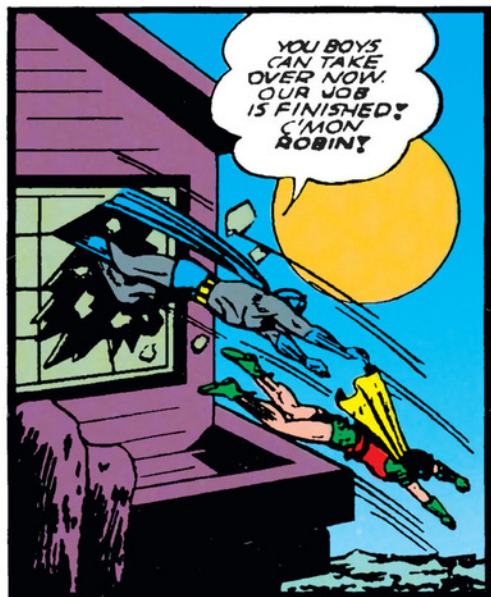
UNTIL HE STEPS ONTO THE DOCK ITSELF, HIS FINGERS TUG AT THE PISTOL'S TRIGGER. A SHOT RINGS OUT.

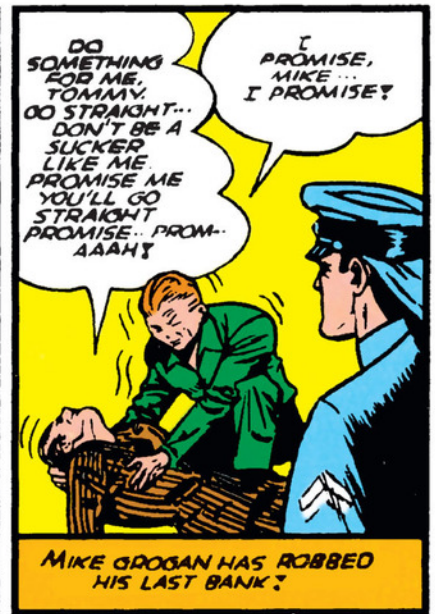


DOWN BELOW THE BATMAN AND ROBIN BATTLE FURIOUSLY WHEN A THUG SUDDENLY PLACES A PISTOL AGAINST LINDA'S HEAD AND SHOUTS....



A SHOT BLASTS THROUGH THE ROOM...BUT THE BATMAN STILL STANDS ERECT. IT IS THE KILLER WHO MEETS HIS END?





No.1

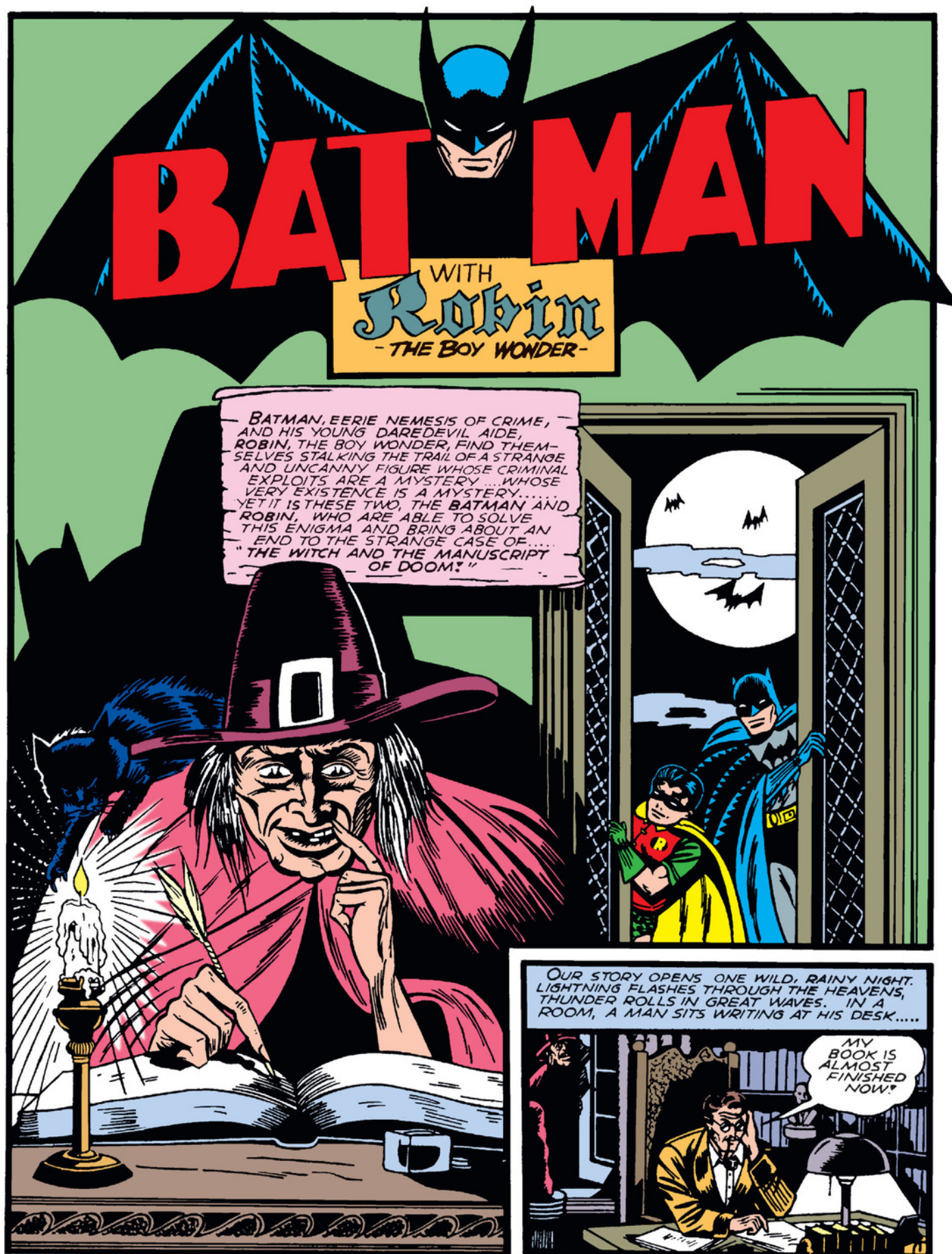


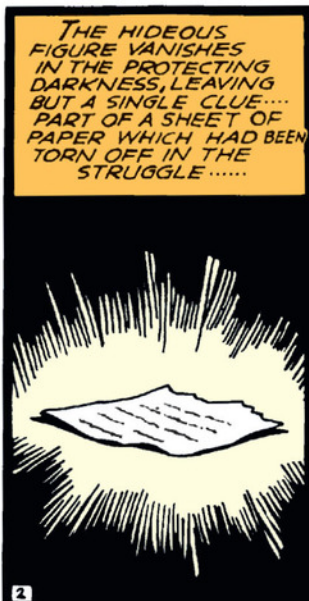
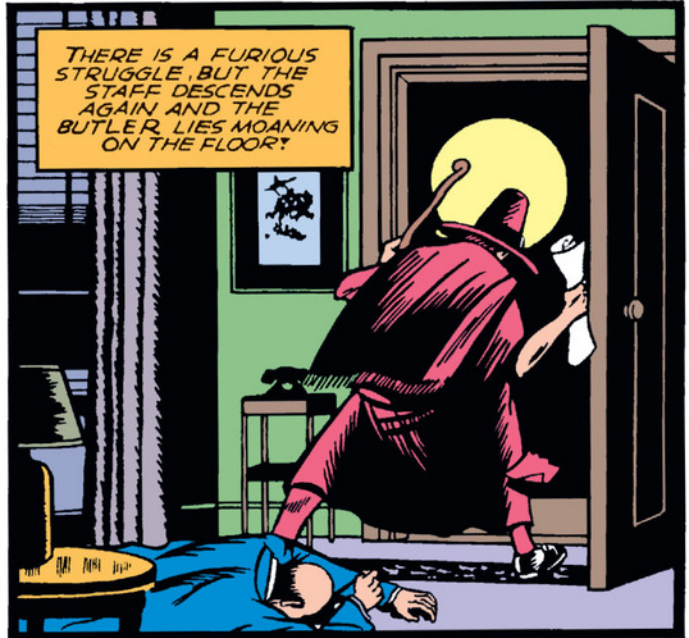
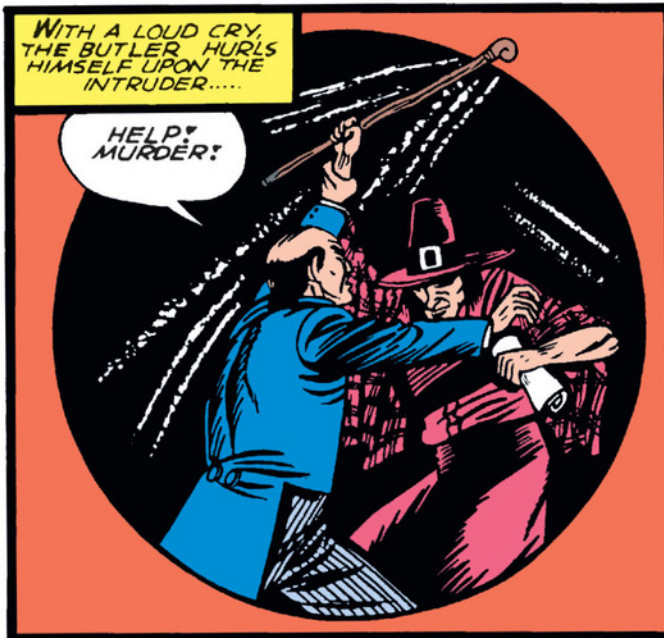
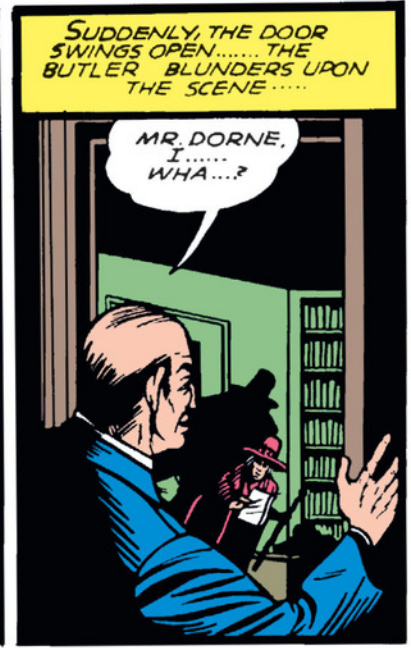
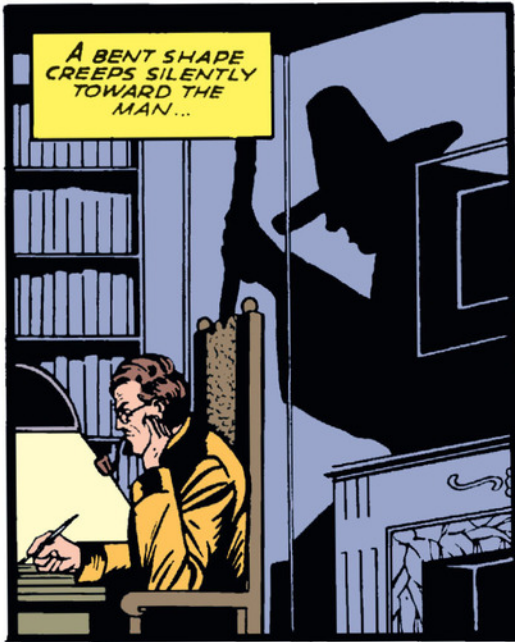
WORLD'S BEST COMICS

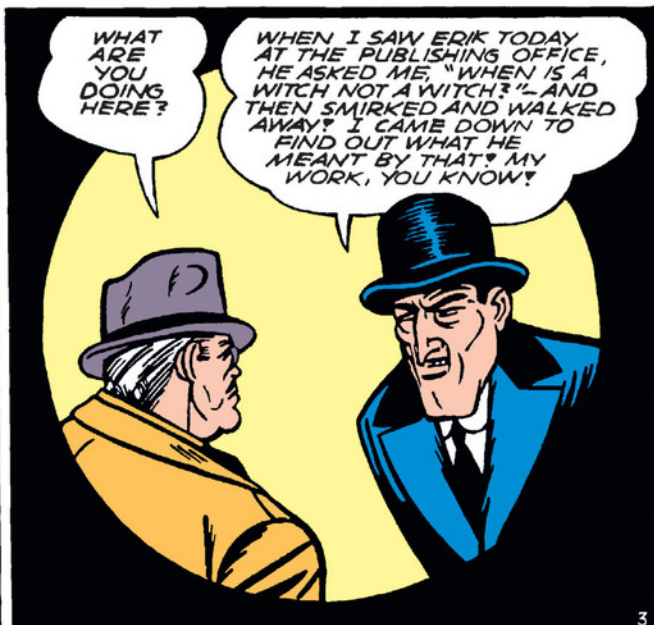
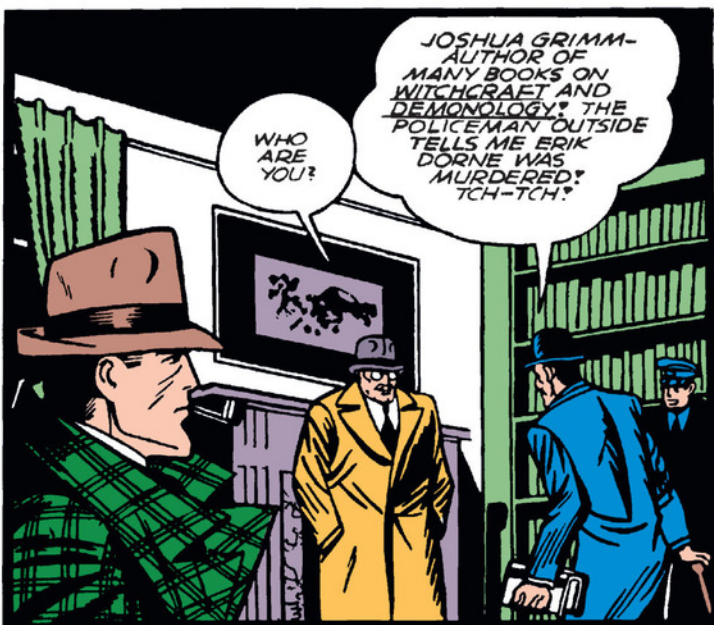
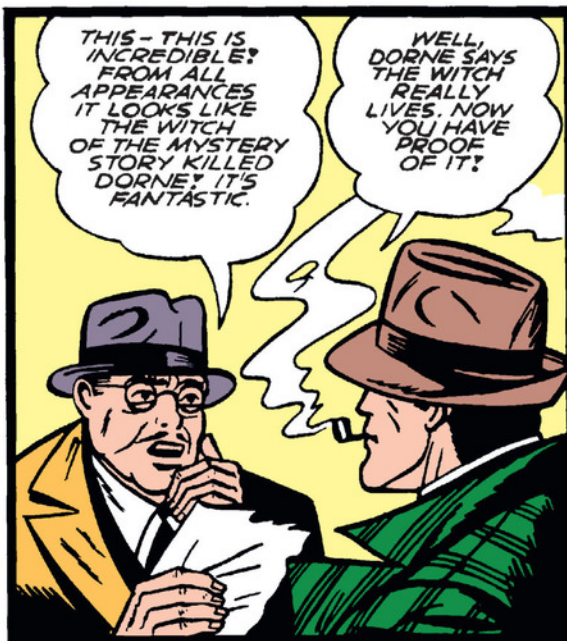
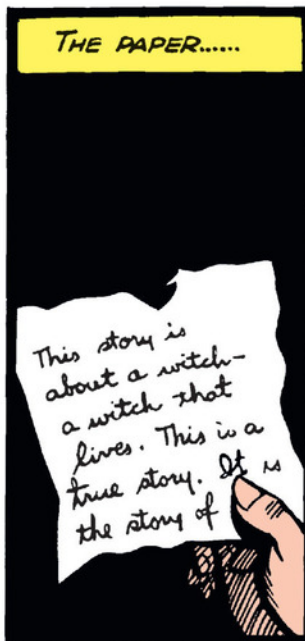
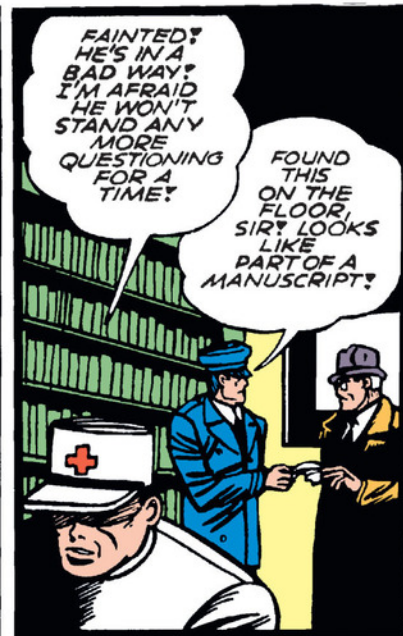
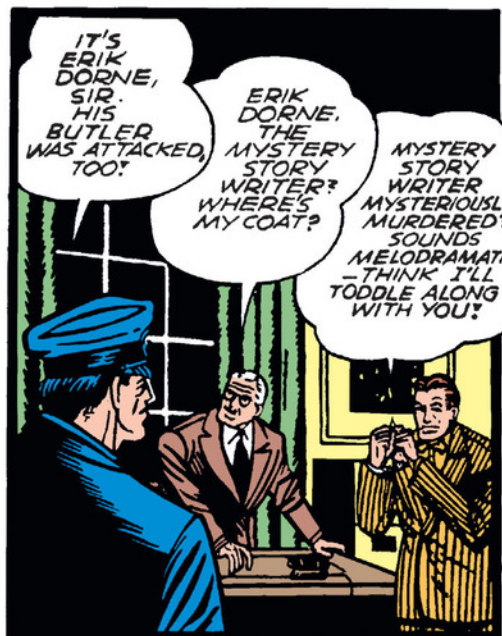


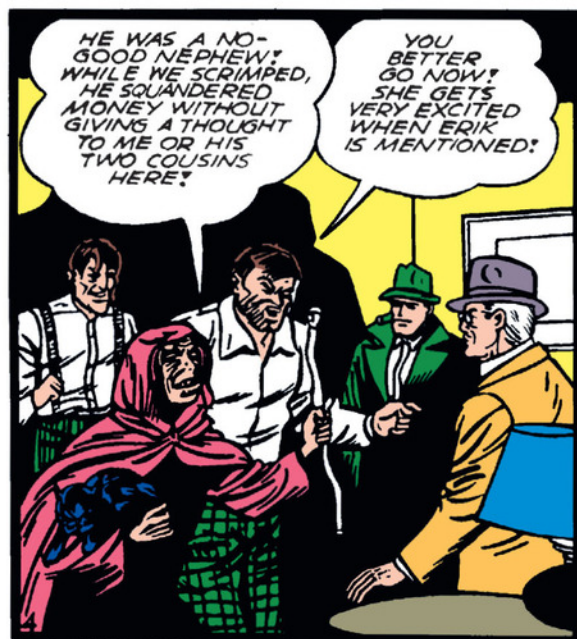
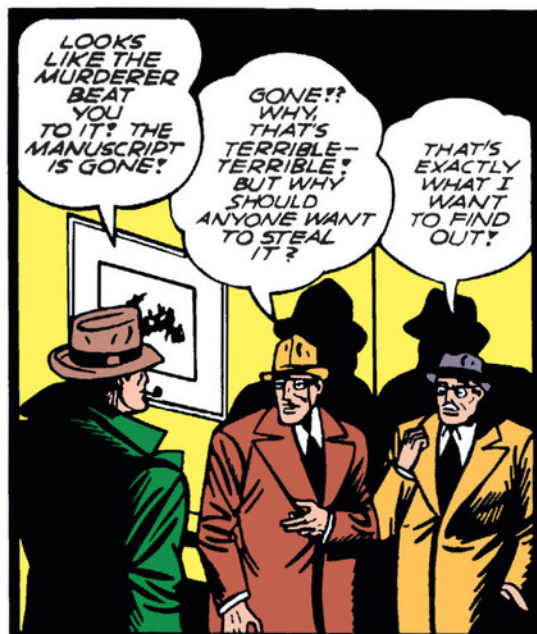
96
THRILLING
PAGES IN
FULL
COLOR!

**SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE AND BLUE • ZATARA**









WITH A LAUGH, THE WITCH PEELS OFF HER "FACE".....

THAT'S MAKEUP? MISS WARE PLAYS A WITCH IN THE PLAY SHE IS STARRING IN.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO TELL ME, COMMISSIONER?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT YOUR HUSBAND—HE'S DEAD!

SO HE'S DEAD? THAT MEANS YOU'RE FREE AT LAST!

BUT YOU ARE OF THE POLICE? DOES THAT MEAN....?

YES? MURDER? AND PERHAPS, NOW, YOU CAN EXPLAIN THIS GENTLEMAN'S REMARK?

I WANTED A DIVORCE FROM ERIK SO I COULD MARRY HARVEY MORROW, HERE—

—BUT HE WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO HER? NOW WE CAN GET MARRIED AT LAST!

NOT A BAD EXCUSE FOR A MURDER, EH, MR. MORROW?

WHEN BRUCE AND GORDON LEAVE.....

YOU KNOW, JANE WARE COULD HAVE SNEAKED OFF DURING STAGE INTERMISSION, KILLED DORNE, AND GOT BACK IN TIME TO CONTINUE HER ROLE.

PERHAPS SHE, IN HER MAKEUP, WAS THE WITCH THE BUTLER SAW.

LOOK! DORNE'S STORY CONCERNS A REAL WITCH—JOSHUA GRIMM WRITES BOOKS ABOUT WITCHES—WRIGHT PUBLISHES THEM—MISS BRUNT LOOKS LIKE A WITCH, AND JANE WARE'S STAGE ROLE IS THAT OF A WITCH? LORD!

THE TROUBLE IS YOU DON'T KNOW WHICH WITCH IS WHICH!

DORNE WAS KILLED BECAUSE HIS STORY WAS GOING TO EXPOSE A PERSON WHO WAS A WITCH? THAT'S WHY THE MANUSCRIPT WAS STOLEN?

SOMEONE LIVING TWO SEPARATE LIVES, EH? WELL, COMMISSIONER, IT'S TOO DEEP FOR ME! PARDON ME WHILE I GO HOME AND DREAM ABOUT WITCHES! TR-TA!

UPON REACHING HIS HOME, BRUCE ACQUAINTS HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WITH THE FACTS OF THE CASE...

WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND? LOOKS LIKE HAIR?

IT IS! I PICKED IT UP FROM THE MURDER ROOM FLOOR! IT'S HAIR FROM A WIG—PROBABLY TORN OFF WHEN THE BUTLER STRUGGLED WITH THE WITCH!

I WANT YOU TO GET ME A SAMPLE OF HAIR FROM THE WIG WORN BY JANE WARE IN HER "WITCH" STAGE ROLE.

I GET IT—IF THE HAIRS MATCH, THAT MEANS JANE WARE IS GUILTY!

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE TWO DON CLOSE-FITTING COSTUMES, WHICH REVEAL PHYSIQUES OF BREATH-TAKING SYMMETRY....

IF MISS BRUNT KILLED DORNE, THEN SHE MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE MANUSCRIPT! I'M GOING TO LOOK IN HER HOME!

WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, INVESTIGATE, EVEN PERFECT CRIMES CAN BE SOLVED!

MOMENTS LATER, A SLIM FIGURE DARTS PAST THE UNWARY STAGE-DOOR WATCHMAN....

THE BOY WONDER MOVES SWIFTLY UP THE STAIRS THAT LEAD TO THE DRESSING ROOMS....

THIS IS THE ROOM! NOW, FOR THAT WIG!

AS ROBIN PULLS HAIRS FROM THE WIG, THE DOOR SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN...

THE FIRST ACT IS... WHA...?

A SNEAK THIEF?

MOVING INCREDIBLY SWIFT, ROBIN BOUNDS ACROSS THE ROOM...

SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS, MISTER!

MPH!

AS ROBIN DASHES OUT ONTO THE STAIR RAMP, STAGE HANDS RUN FORWARD AS MORROW CRIES OUT...

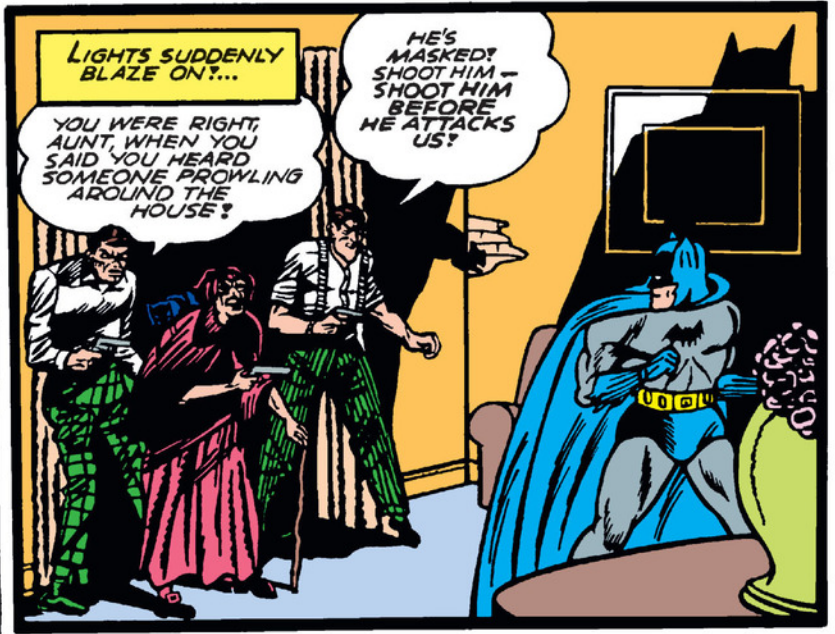
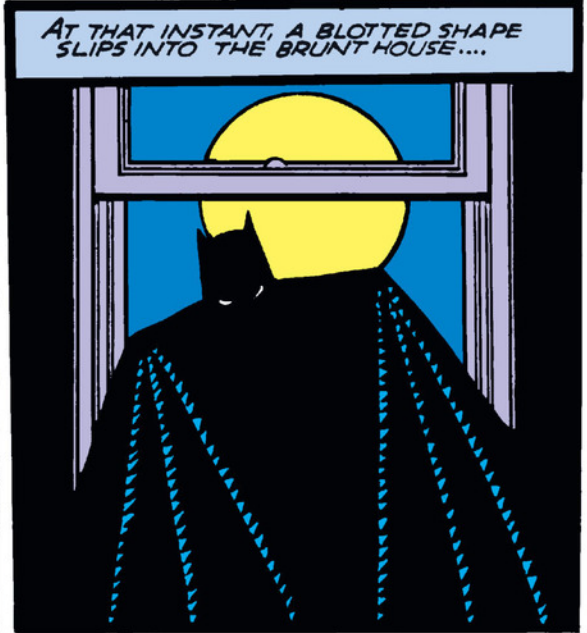
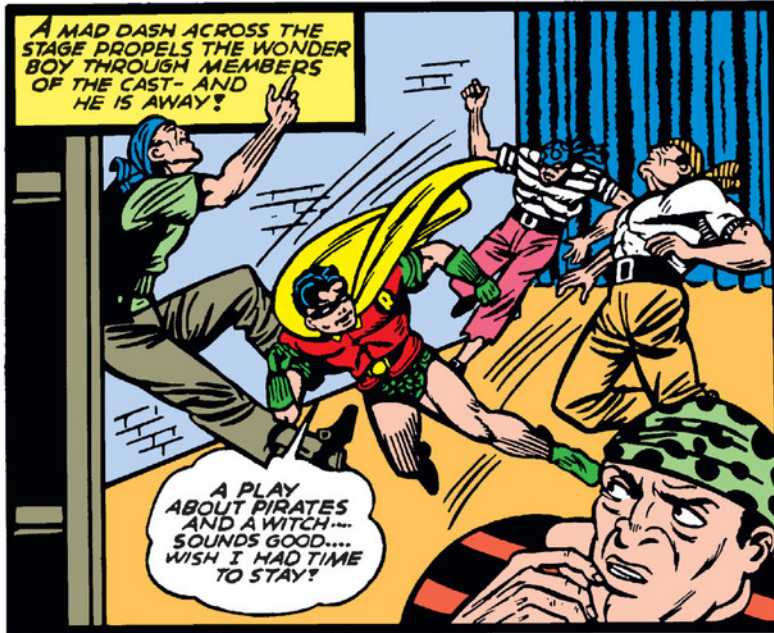
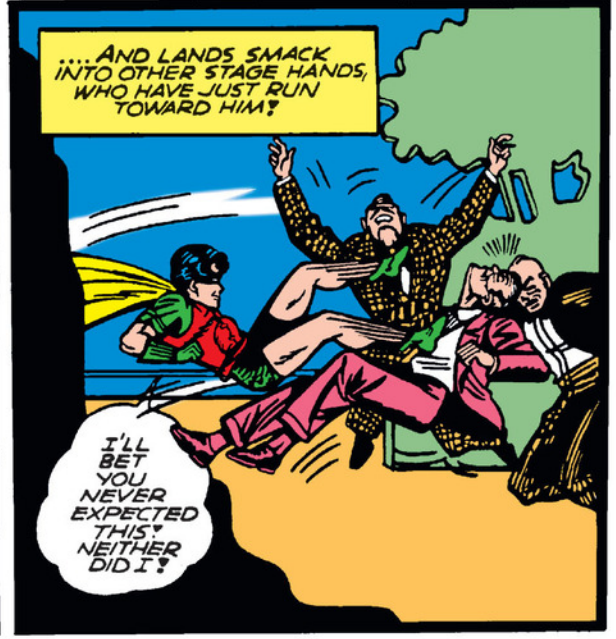
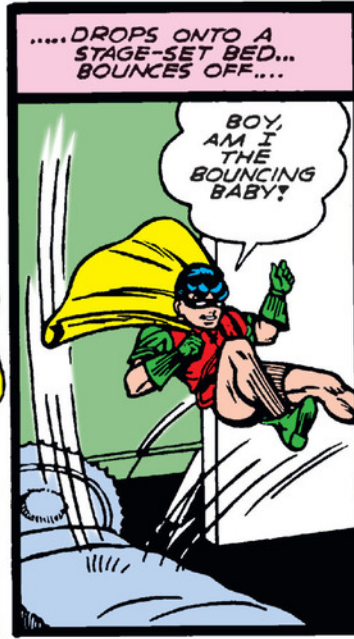
GET HIM! HE'S A THIEF! STOP HIM!

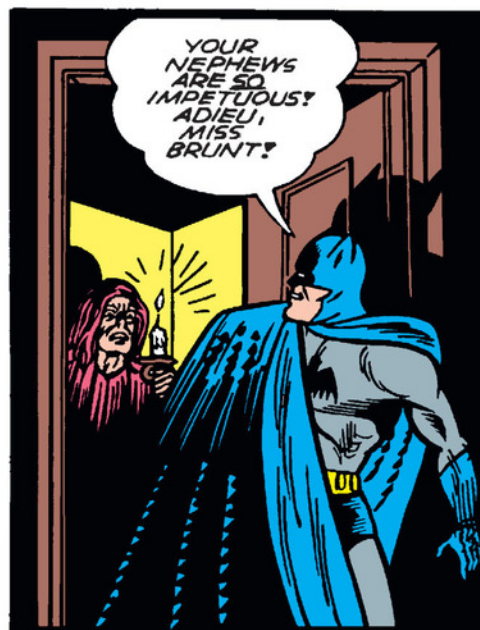
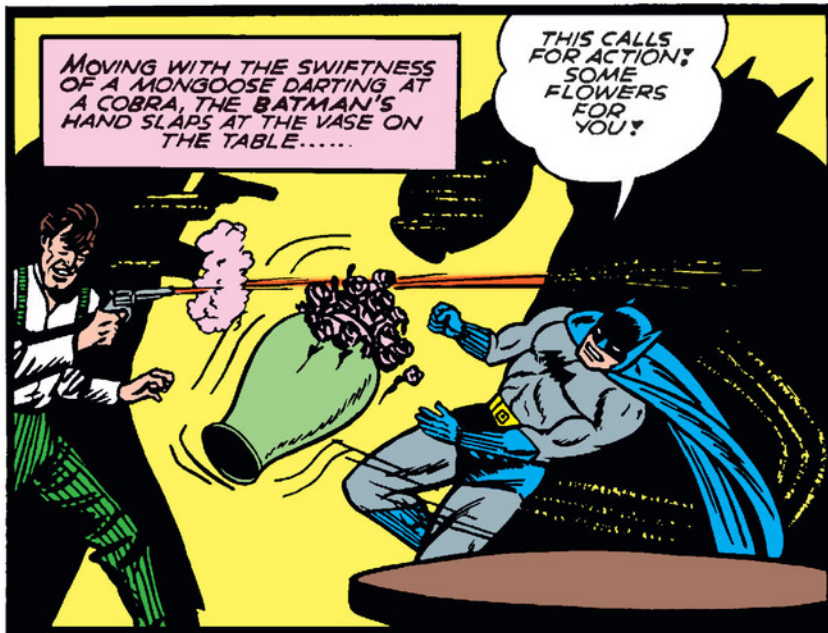
OH-OH! COMING AT ME FROM ALL SIDES!

WE'LL GET 'IM!

ROBIN DECIDES UPON A HEADLONG DIVE INTO SPACE....

BETTER THIS WAY!





THE BATMAN PLACES THE DIFFERENT HAIRS UNDER HIS MICROSCOPE FOR COMPARISON...



HMM?

WHAT HAS THE BATMAN DISCOVERED ABOUT THE TWO HAIRS?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MYSTERIOUS WITCH LAUGHS....



IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE POLICE TO READ THIS MANUSCRIPT! NEVER! HEE HEE!

THE NEXT DAY....



I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT EACH SUSPECT SAID, AND I THINK I KNOW NOW WHO IS GUILTY! ...AND I'VE GOT A PLAN TO PROVE IT!

BRUCE DIALS A NUMBER.....



YOU SAY YOU ARE A POLICE REPORTER?

YES? I'VE JUST COME FROM THE HOSPITAL. THE BUTLER IS STILL IN A BAD WAY, BUT HE KEEPS MUMBLING ABOUT A DUPLICATE MANUSCRIPT HIDDEN IN ERIK DORNE'S ROOM?

NATURALLY, THIS WOULD AFFECT YOUR OCCUPATION! HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THOSE PAPERS?



NO COMMENT! SORRY! CLICK!

I'VE PLANTED THE BAIT! NOW, LET'S HOPE OUR PARTY TAKES A NIBBLE AT IT!



WHO DID BRUCE PHONE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE WITCH?

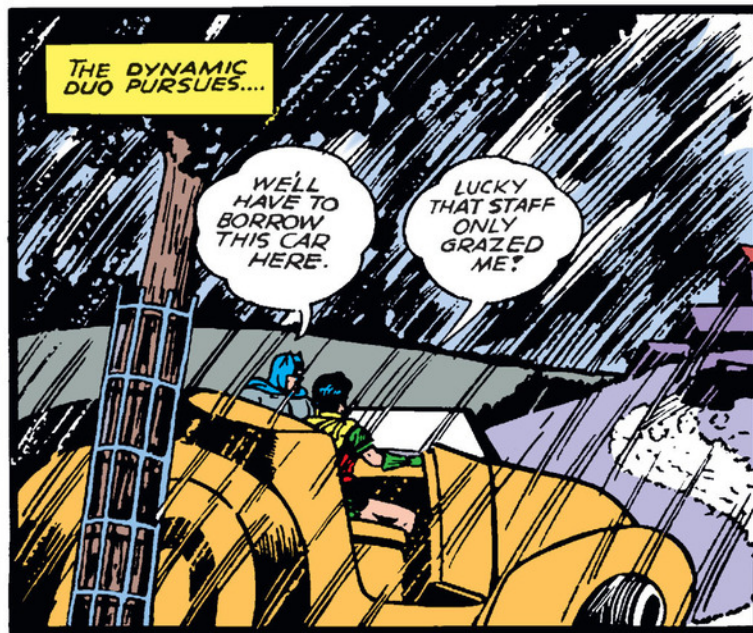


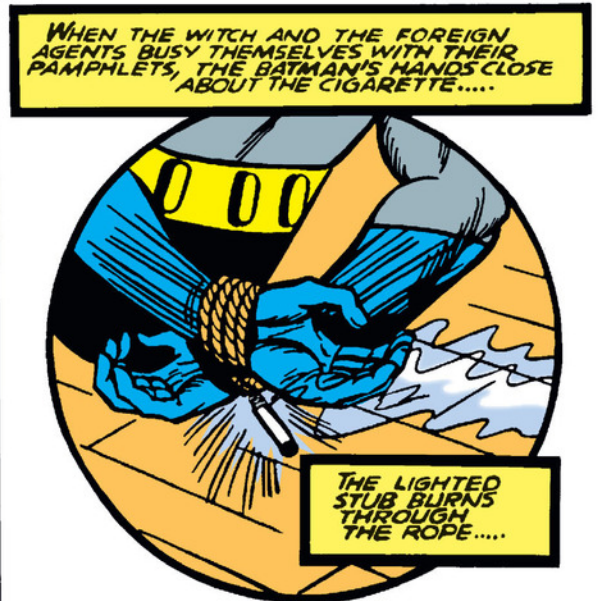
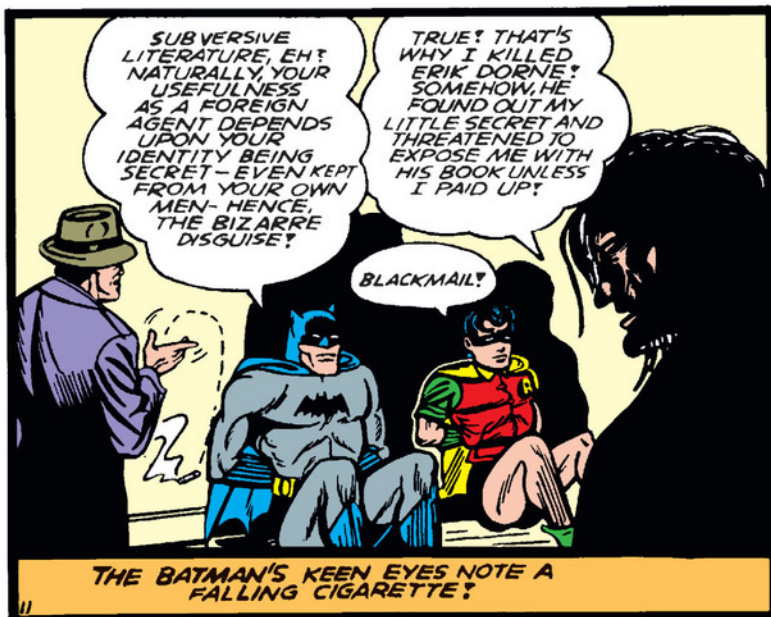
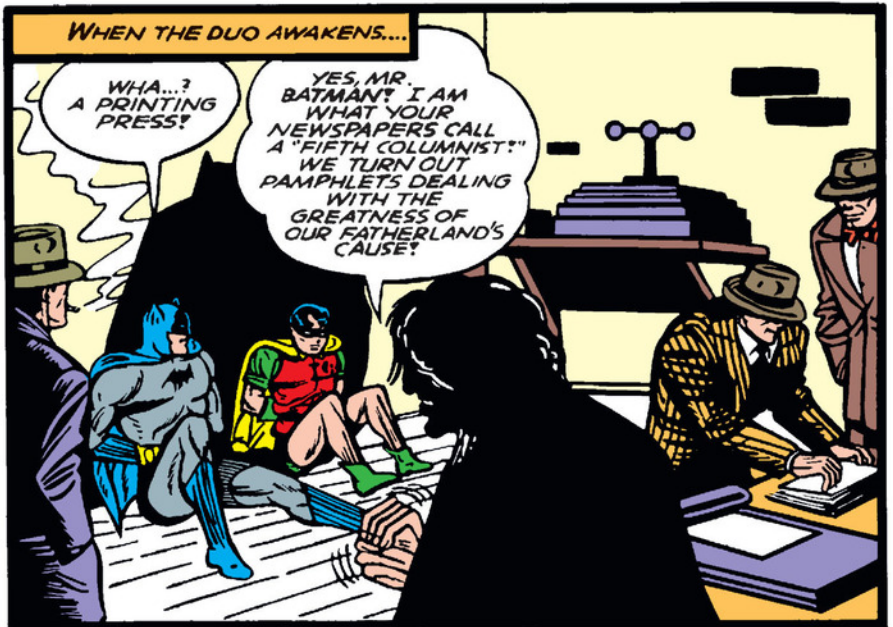
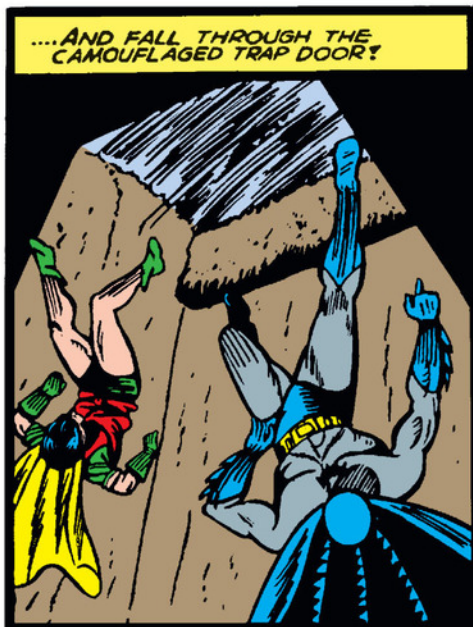
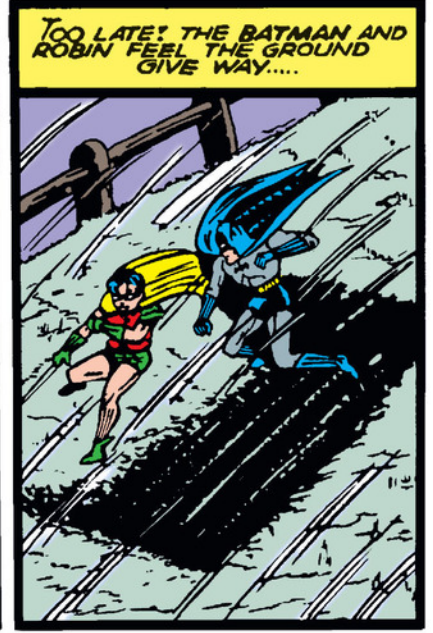
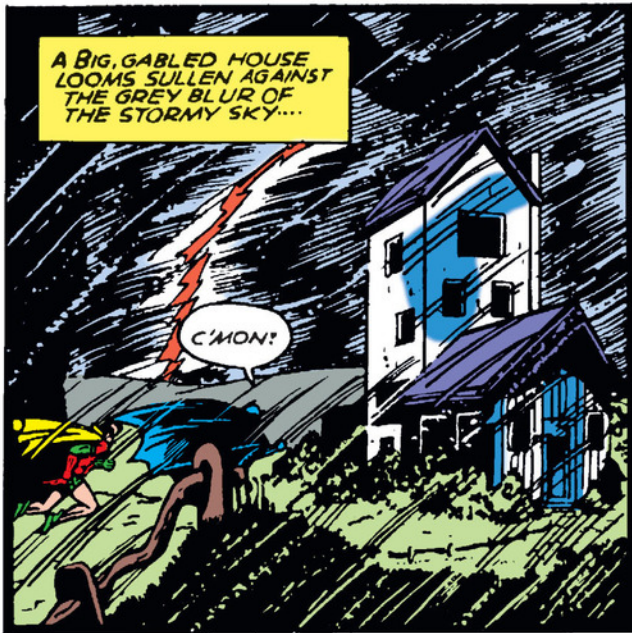
THAT NIGHT, A SHADOWY FIGURE POISES OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE LATE ERIK DORNE'S ROOM.....

NOISELESSLY, IT GLIDES INTO THE ROOM..... AT THAT MOMENT, THE MOON SLIPS OUT FROM BEHIND DARK CLOUDS AND REVEALS IN ITS LIGHT..... THE WITCH!



THAT HIDDEN MANUSCRIPT MUST BE AROUND SOMEPLACE!





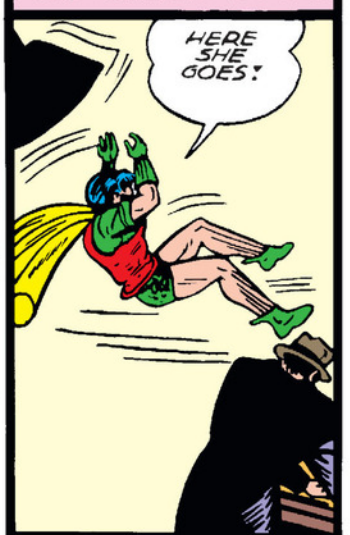
AS SOON AS HIS HANDS ARE LOOSE, THE BATMAN SLIDES A BLADE FROM HIS BELT AND FURTIVELY SLICES ROBIN'S BONDS.....



ABRUPTLY, ROBIN SPRINGS FROM THE FLOOR.....



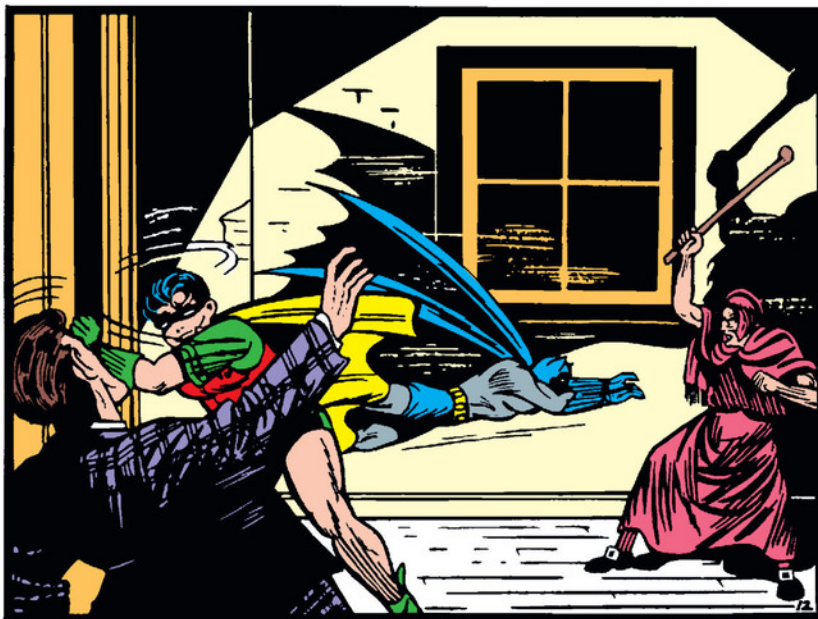
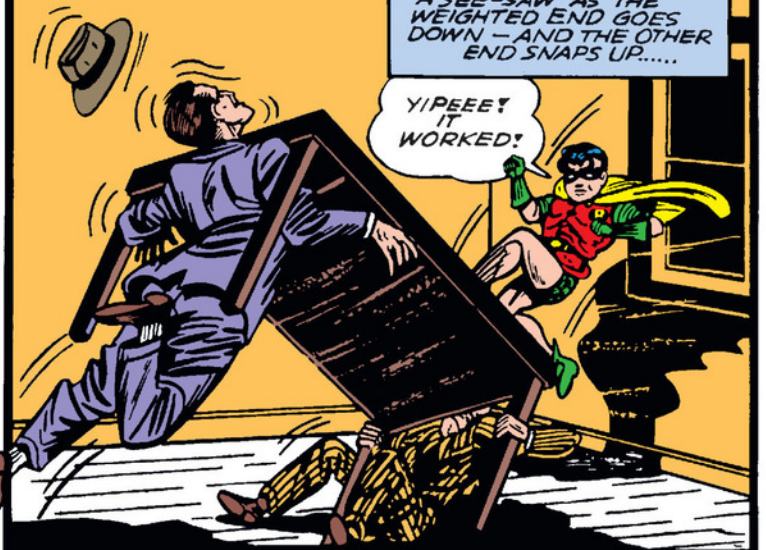
HIS STRONG HANDS CLOSE ABOUT THE CHANDELIER, HE SWINGS OUT, RELEASES HIS GRIP....



DOWN COMES ROBIN.....



THE TABLE ACTS LIKE A SEE-SAW AS THE WEIGHTED END GOES DOWN - AND THE OTHER END SNAPS UP.....



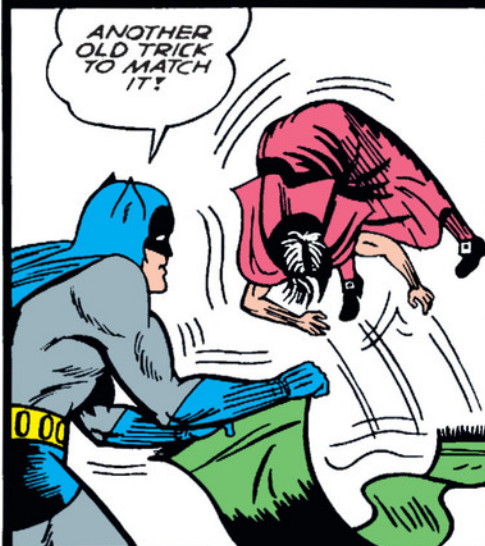
THE STAFF CATCHES THE BATMAN ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD.



THE WITCH PULLS AT THE STAFF, AND A GLEAMING SWORD FLASHES IN THE LIGHT....



THE BATMAN TUGS AT THE CARPET STRIP AND....



THE WITCH DRAWS A GUN....



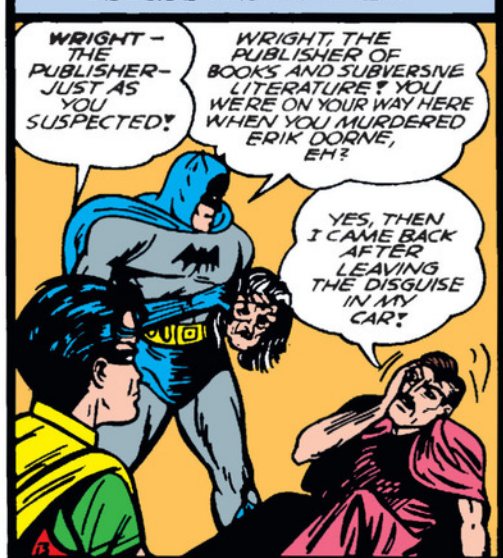
AND THE BATMAN AND WITCH LOCK IN A DEATH STRUGGLE....



SUDDENLY.... WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE.... THE WITCH GOES FLYING....



THE BATMAN RIPS AWAY THE DISGUISE AND REVEALS....



WITH THE WITCH, ALIAS WRIGHT, IN CUSTODY, BRUCE AND DICK DISCUSS THE CASE AT HOME...



NOW, WHAT SAY TO A MOVIE? THEY'VE GOT "THE WITCH WALKS!"





No. 51



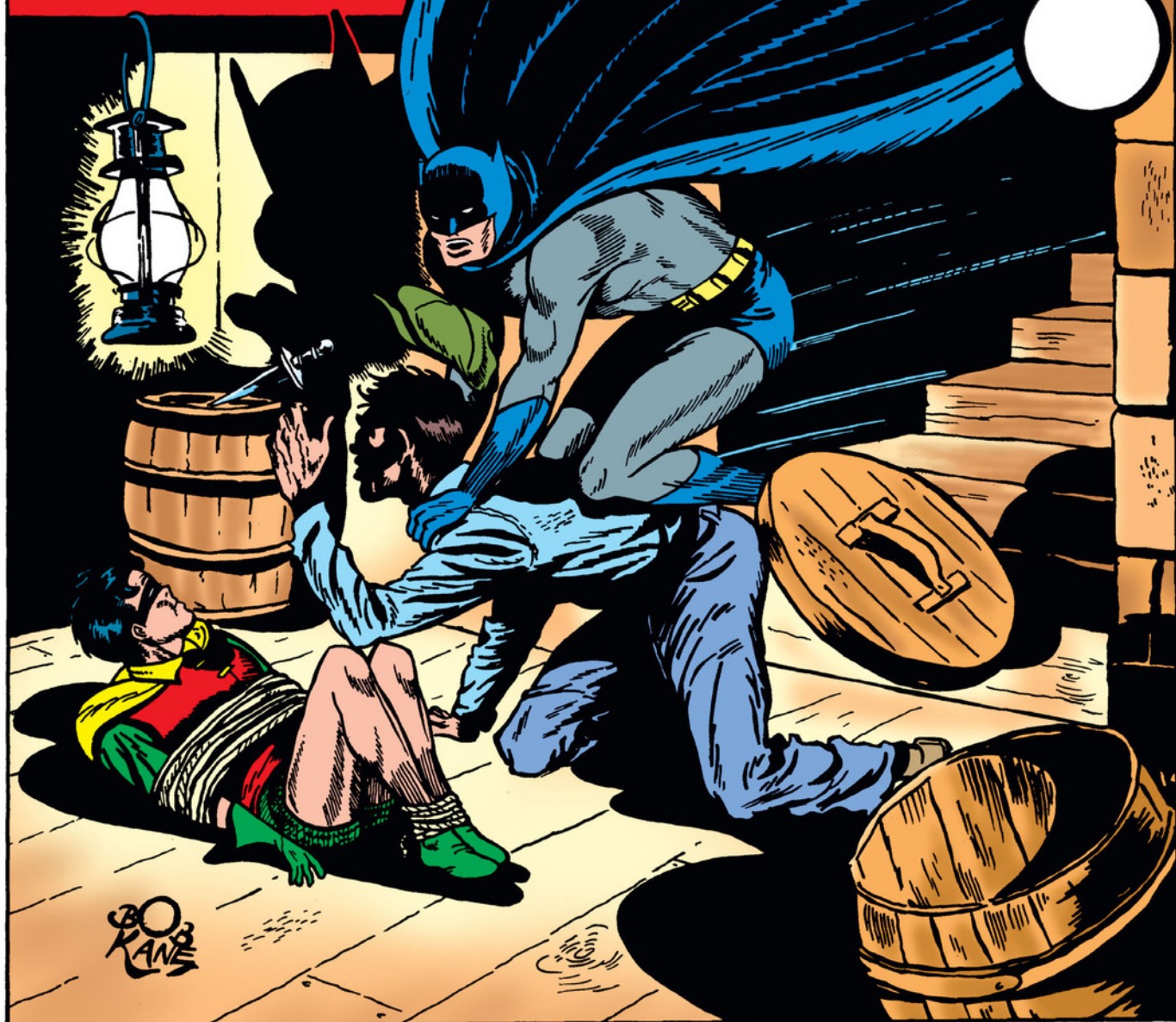
The BATMAN

Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF

MAY

COMICS



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

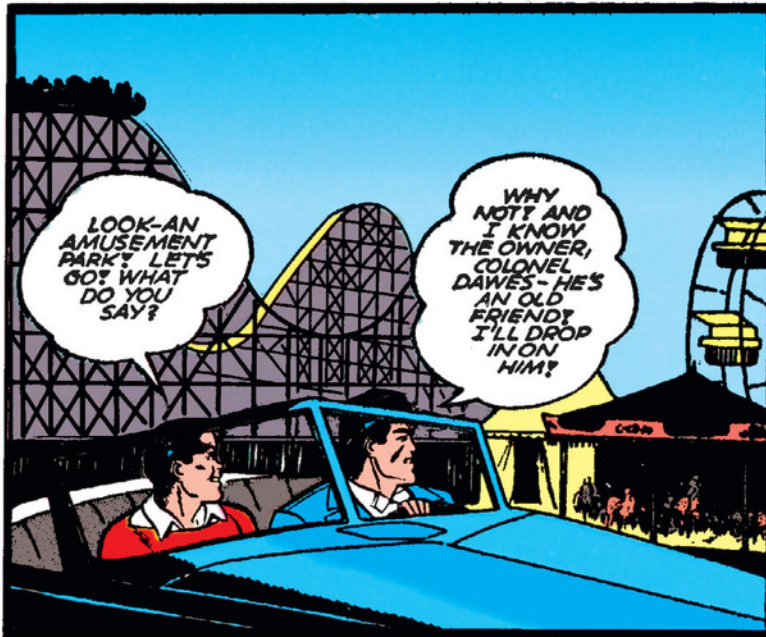
WHEN CROOKS TAKE OVER AN AMUSEMENT PARK, SO EAGERLY THE WEALTH THEY DREADED SEEK, THEY FIND THEIR HE- NEMESIS - THE BATMAN! IT IS HE, THE MYSTERIOUS BEING OF THE DARKNESS-- AND LAUGHING, THE DARING, YOUNG ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, WHO, SIDE BY SIDE, BREAK UP THIS CRAFTY, EVIL GAME AND BRING SWIFT JUSTICE TO THE MINIONS OF CRIME WHO FIGURE IN----
"THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY CARNIVAL"

by BOB KANE

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON GO FOR A CAR RIDE....

BOY, THIS FRESH AIR IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!

YOU AND ME BOTH? AND BESIDES, THE RIDE WILL TAKE OUR MINDS OFF CRIME FOR A CHANGE?





BRUCE PULLS OPEN THE BACK TRUNK OF THE CAR AND PRODUCES TWO COSTUMES....

GOOD THING WE ALWAYS CARRY OUR COSTUMES ALONG JUST IN CASE?

WE'LL WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL AND THEN WE'LL INVESTIGATE OUR BOGUS FRIEND!

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER ARE READY TO MEET SERVERS OF CRIME?

NIGHTFALL! AS THE BOGUS "COLONEL DAWES" WALKS, HE IS UNAWARE OF TWO FIGURES WHO FOLLOW BEHIND LIKE TWO GRIM SHADOWS...

THERE HE GOES-INTO THAT WAX MUSEUM?

WAX MUSEUM

THEY DART PAST THE UNWARY BARKER AND FIND THEMSELVES INSIDE

SHH? SOMEONE'S COMING?

TWO FIGURES JOIN THE EXHIBIT...

LOOK, HENRY-- WAX FIGURES OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOYWONDER? MY DON'T THEY LOOK REAL?

I SHOULD SAY THEY DO. ANYONE WOULD THINK THEY WERE ALIVE?

WHEN THE PATRONS HAVE GONE, THE TWO FIGURES COME TO LIFE....

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE?

CLOSE ENOUGH! NOW LET'S GET GOING-- HE WENT DOWN THIS WAY!

THEY PUSH OPEN A DOOR.....

WHAT A CREEPY PLACE! MUST BE THE STORE ROOM?

QUIET? FOOTSTEPS!

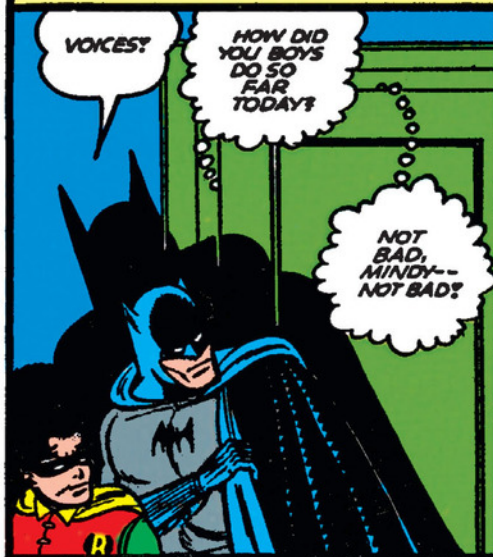
CLOP CLOP CLOP

THE OLD CARETAKER SHUFFLES NEAR....

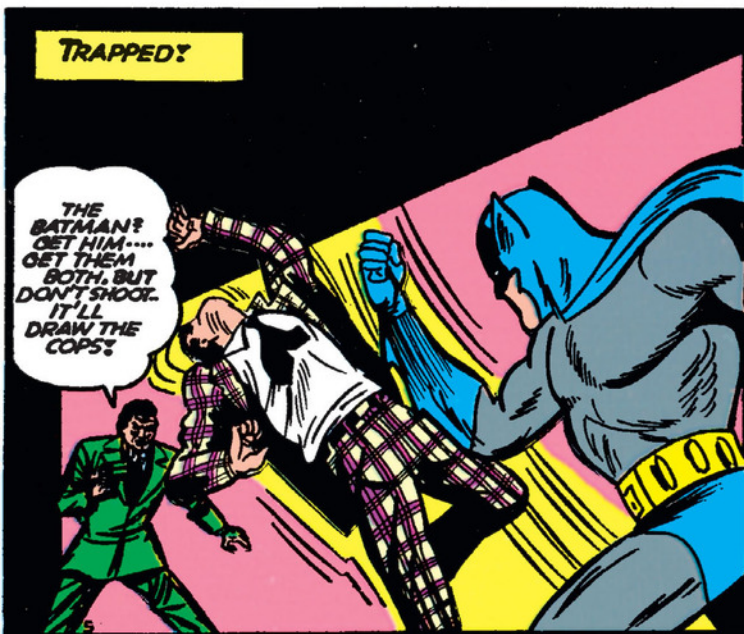
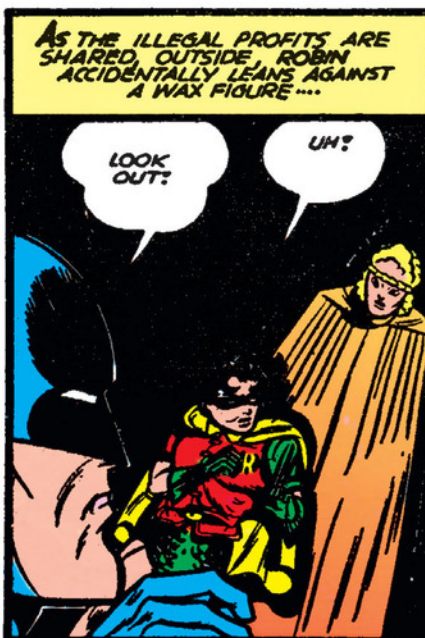
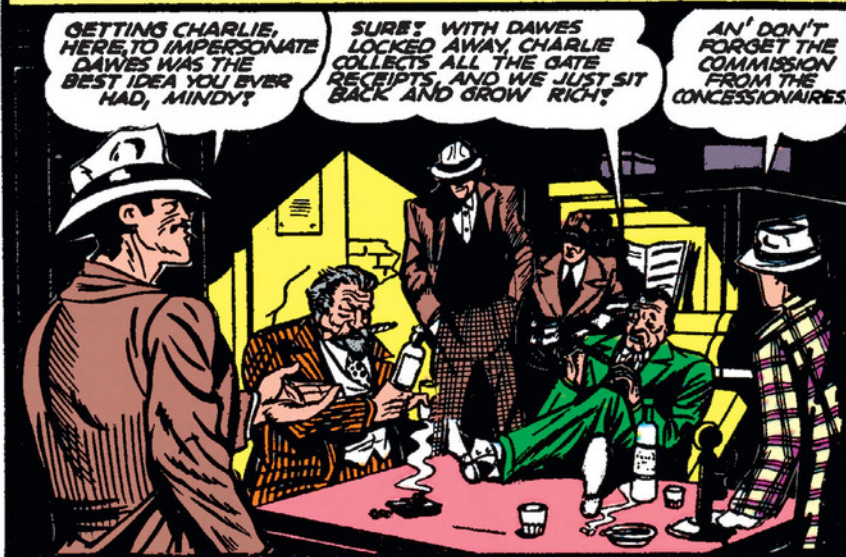
HELLO, NAPOLEON? I JUST SAW THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON. HE WAS ASKING ABOUT YOU... AND YOU, HUNCHBACK--IT'S TIME TO RING THE BELLS OF NOTRE DAME?

I NEVER SAW YOU TWO BEFORE. BUT NO MATTER... YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MY LITTLE FAMILY. I'LL COME BACK AND TALK TO YOU LATER.... HEE HEE...

AGAIN THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FLIT SILENTLY IN THE GLOOM... WHEN -



THE BATMAN PLACES HIS EYES AGAINST A CRACK IN THE DOOR AND SEES.....



THEY ARE SECURELY TRUSSED AND TOSSED INTO A ROOM....

I DON'T LIKE THIS, MINDY... SOMETHIN'S WRONG?

WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST. YOU GUYS GO OUT AND PULL AS MANY HOLDUPS AS YOU CAN. THEN WE'LL GET OUTA HERE?

YEAH-- HOW DID THE BATMAN KNOW OUR GAME?

THE MEN LEAVE....

THIS IS NOT SO... LOOK.. OVER THERE ON THE BED?

DAWES? THE REAL COLONEL DAWES?

THE BATMAN CALLS DAWES BUT HE DOES NOT ANSWER....

SOMETHING'S WRONG. HE DOESN'T EVEN WAKE UP.

YET, HE'S ALIVE! I CAN HEAR HIM BREATHING. IF ONLY I COULD GET FREE?

HOURS PASS, WHEN SUDDENLY THE DOOR OPENS-- AND A BENT FIGURE ENTERS THE ROOM--

TIED YOU UP, DIDN'T THEY? HEE HEE

THE CARETAKER--

...AND HE'S GOT A KNIFE?

THE KNIFE DESCENDS--TO CUT THEIR BONDS?

I SAW THEM-- I SAW THEM TIE YOU UP? I MUST FREE YOU SO YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR PLACES AND JOIN MY LITTLE FAMILY AGAIN?

THE POOR MAN THINKS WE'RE STILL WAX FIGURES-- FROM HIS LITTLE FAMILY, AS HE CALLS IT?

HE'S BREATHING HEAVILY, BUT HIS HEART ACTION IS WEAK? HE'S BEEN DRUGGED?

WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY!

HEE HEE?

I'LL TAKE HIM TO ONE. YOU STAY HERE AND TRY TO STOP MINDY'S GANG WITHOUT GETTING HURT.

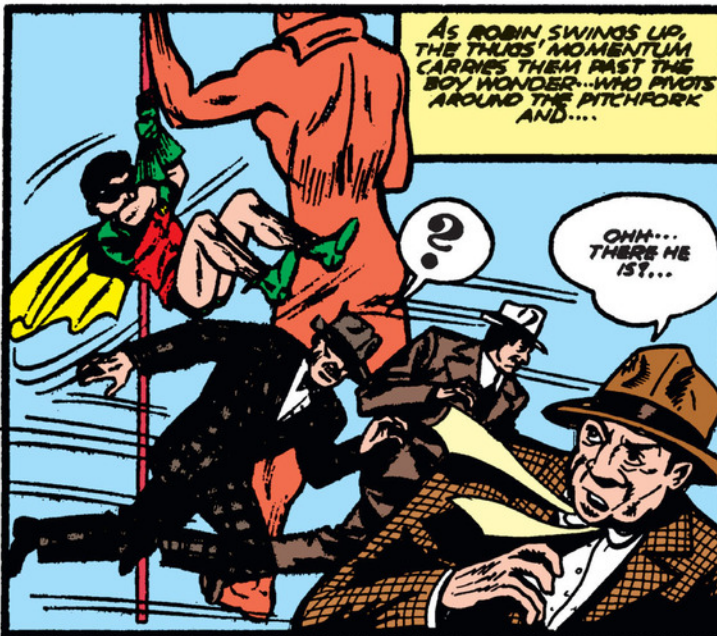
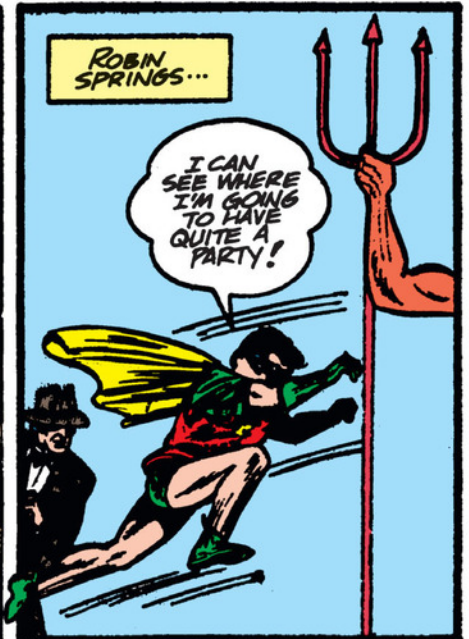
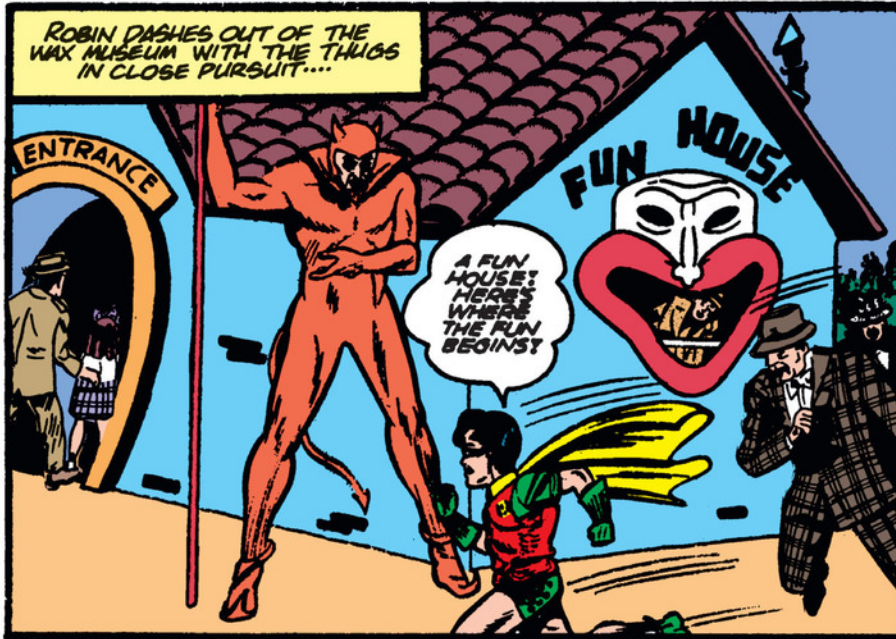
RIGHT?

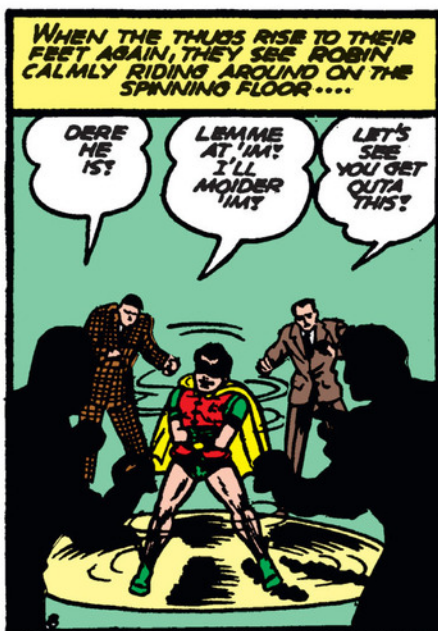
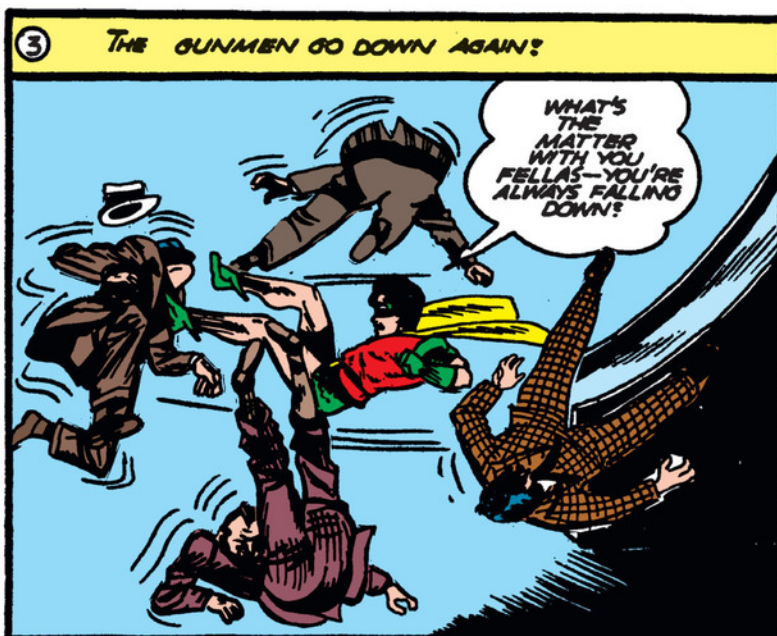
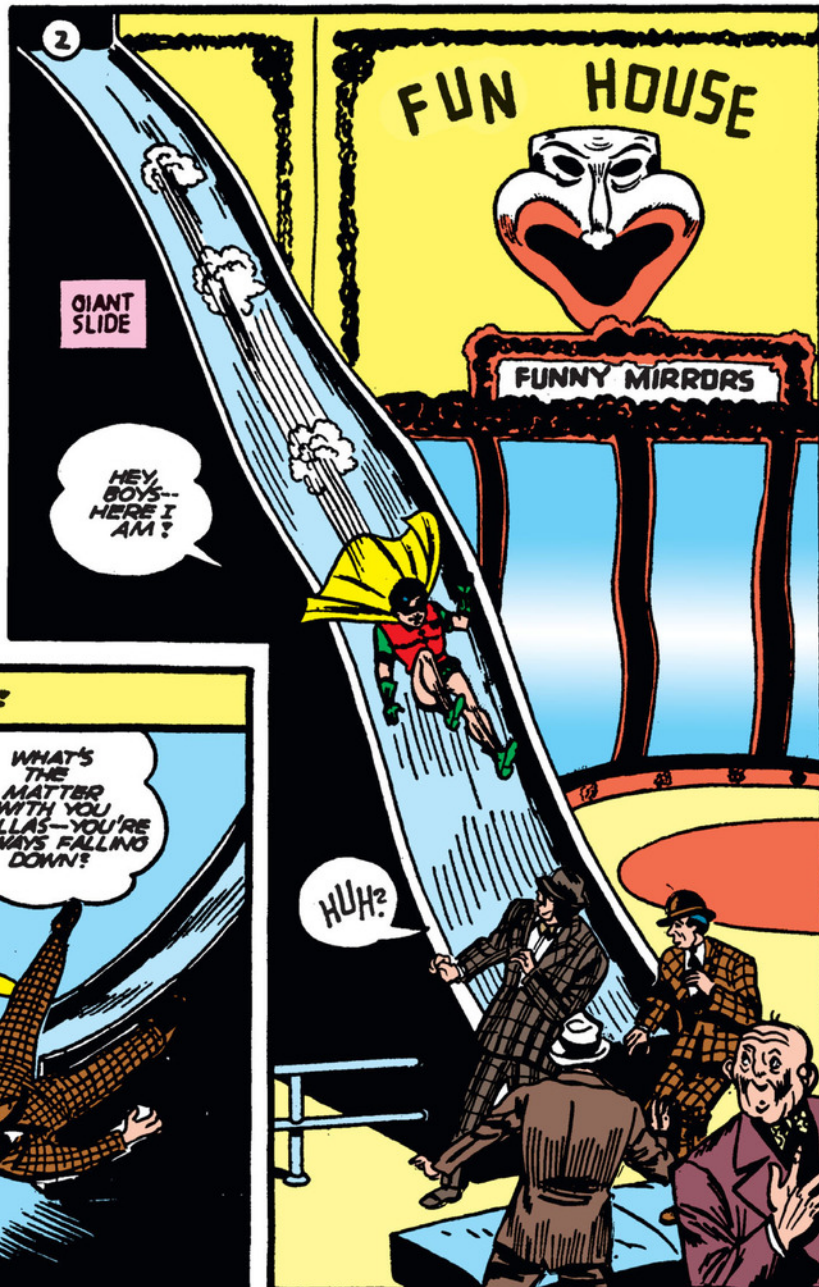
AFTER THE BATMAN HAS GONE, ROBIN CAUTIOUSLY STEPS OUT INTO THE WAX MUSEUM WHEN--

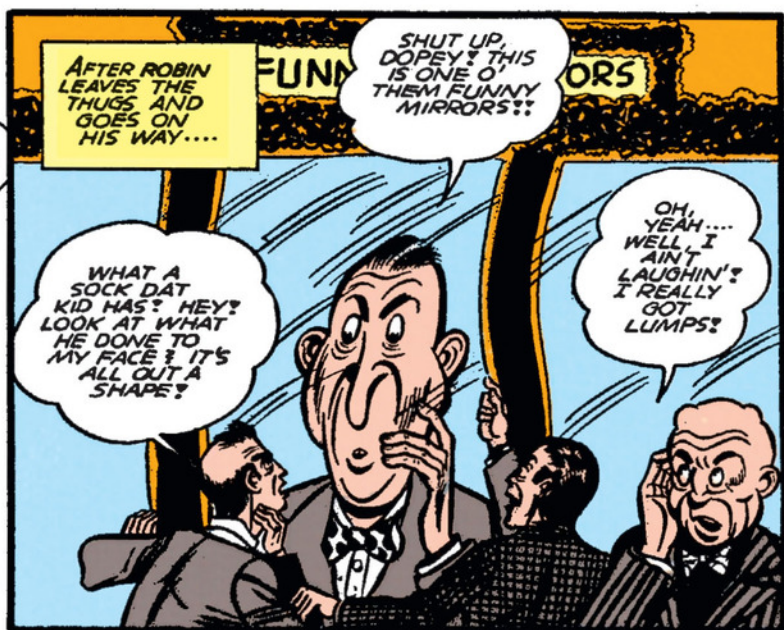
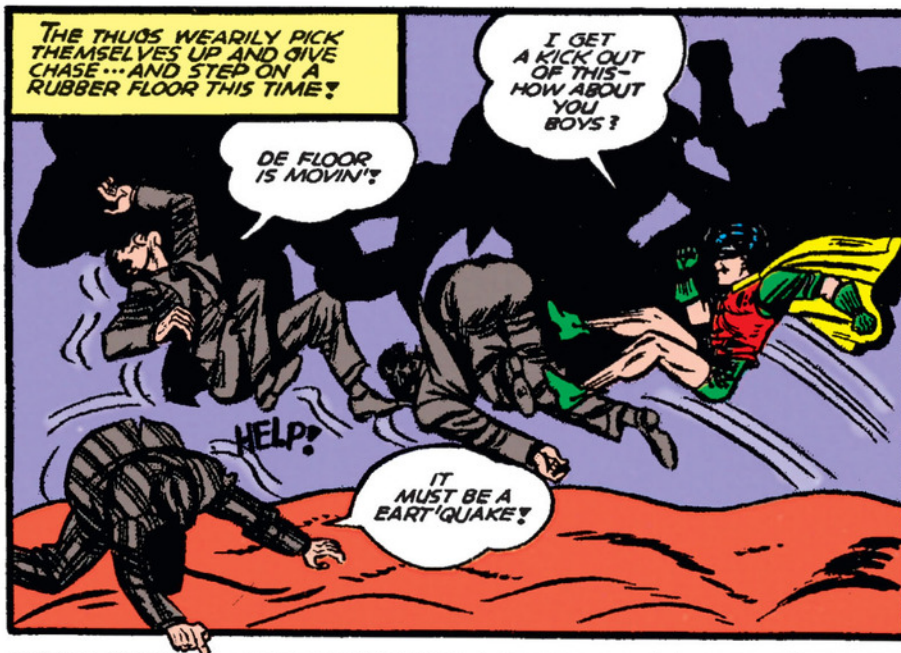
LOOK.... THE KID THAT WORKS WITH THE BATMAN!

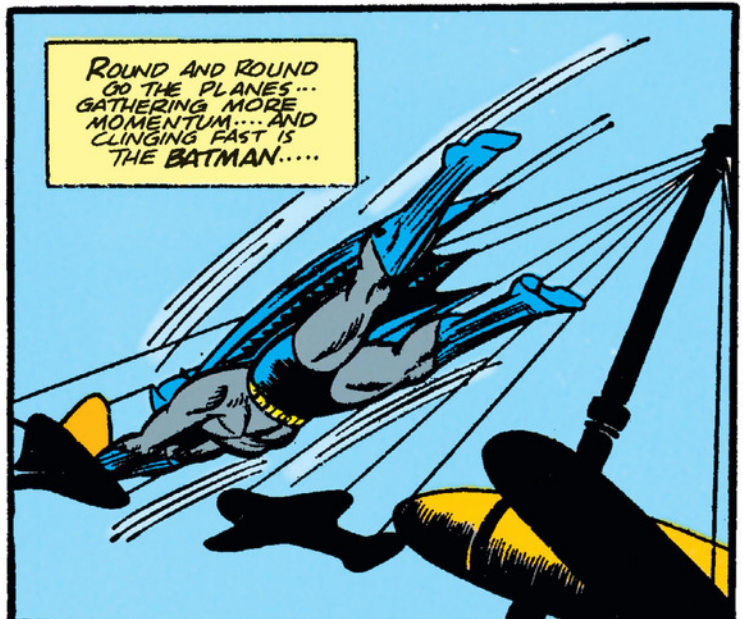
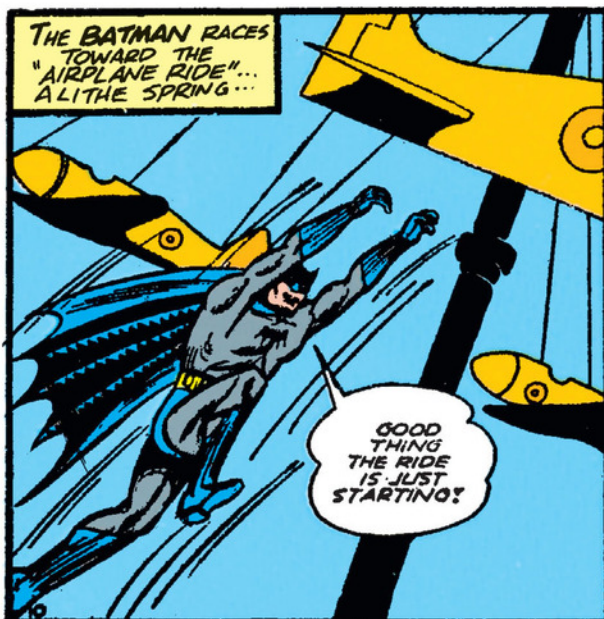
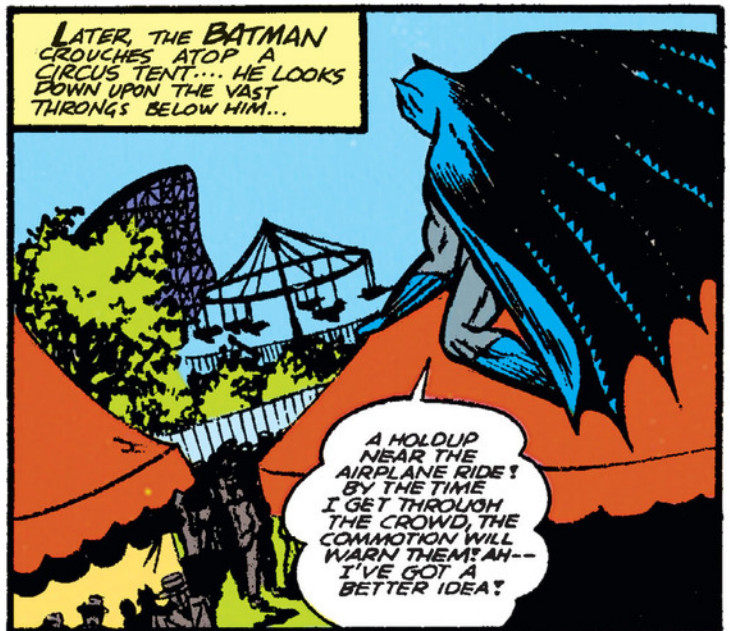
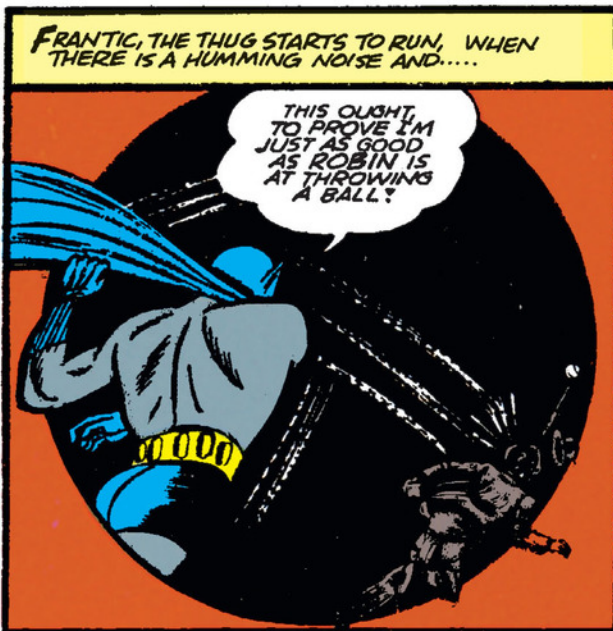
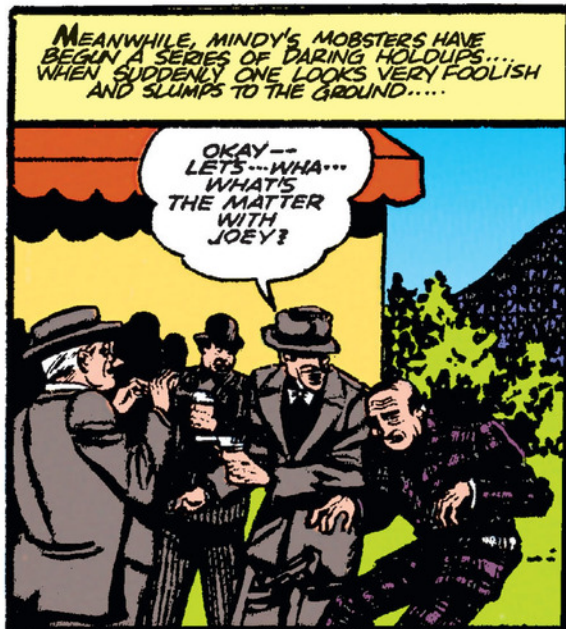
GET HIM BEFORE HE CALLS THE COPS? C'MON!

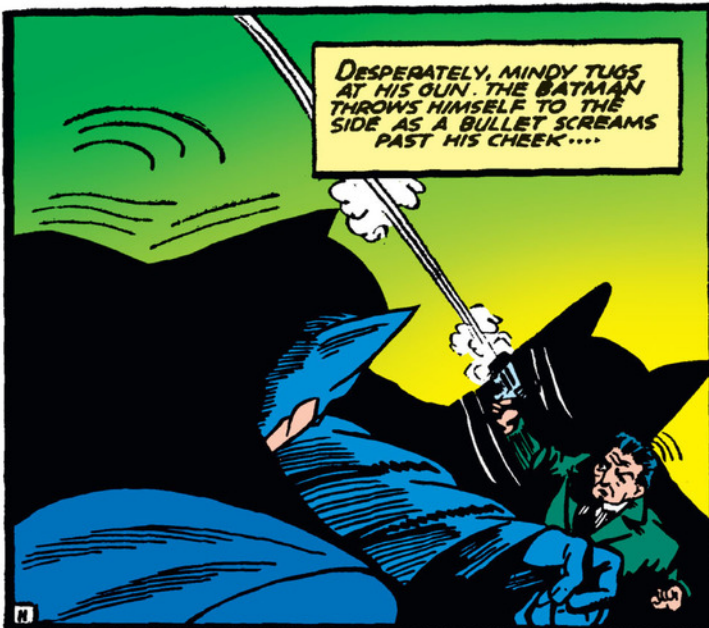
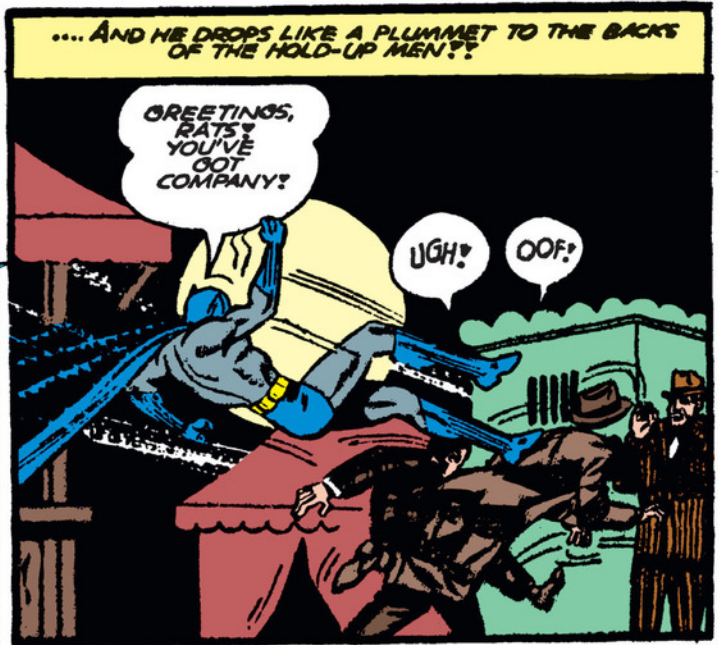
OH-- OH?

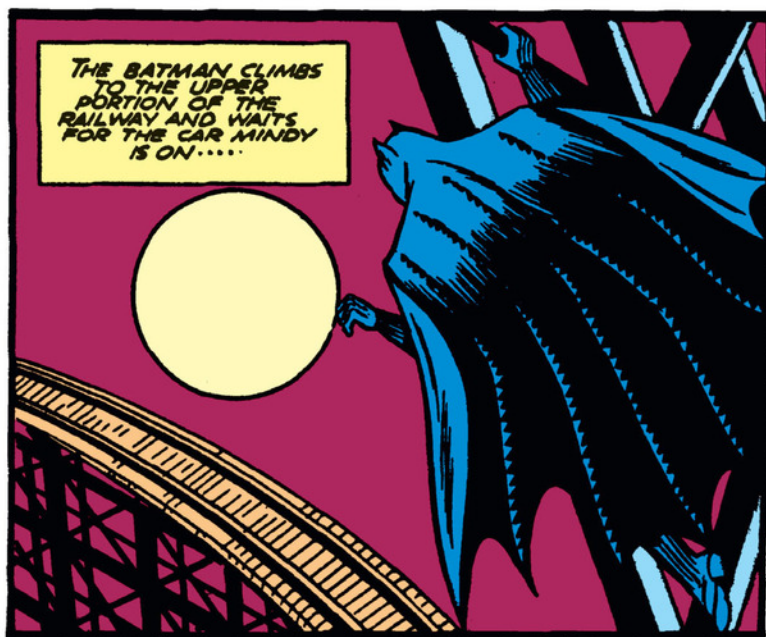
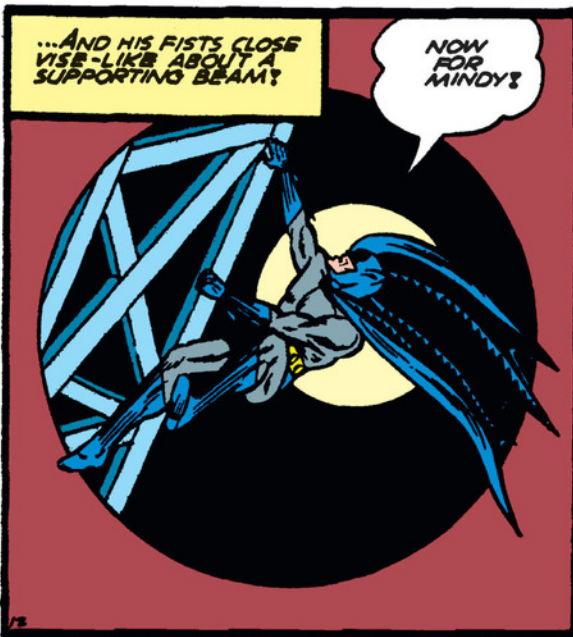
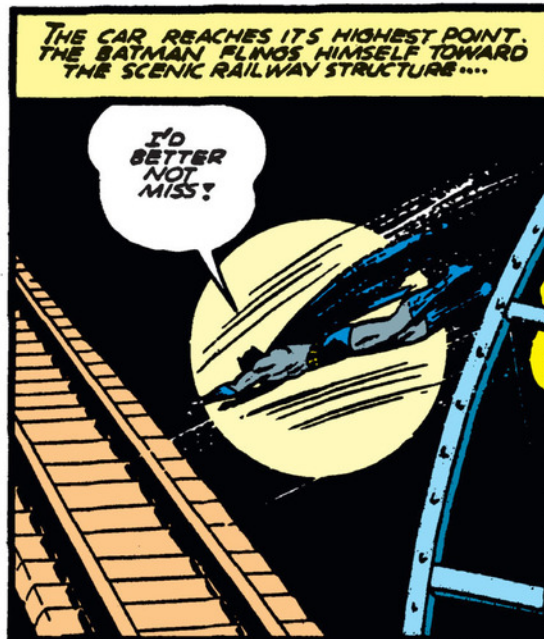
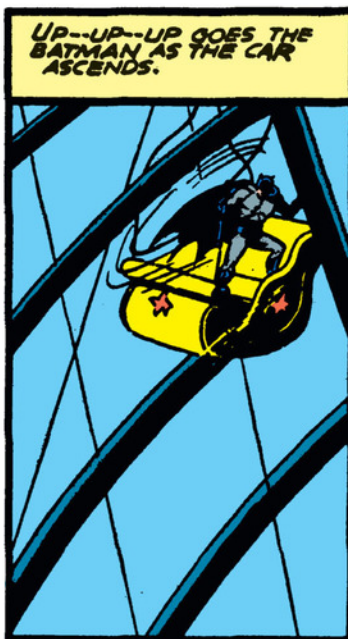
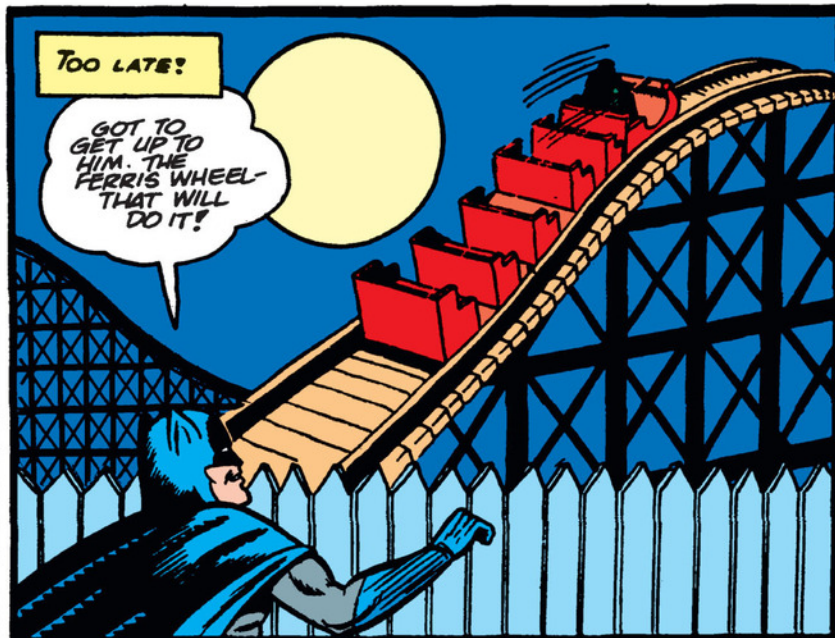
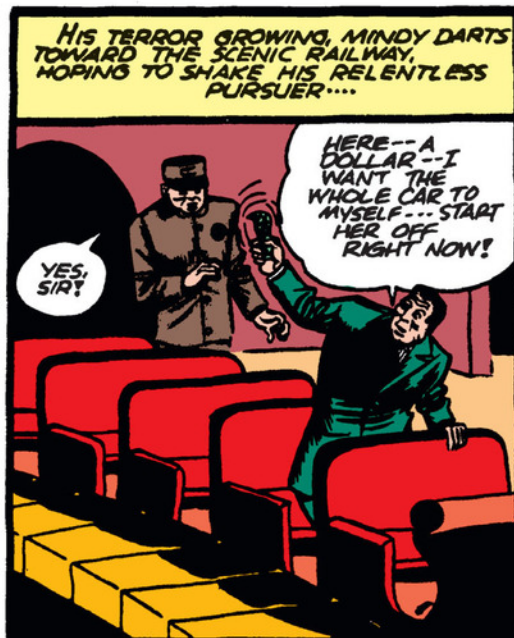


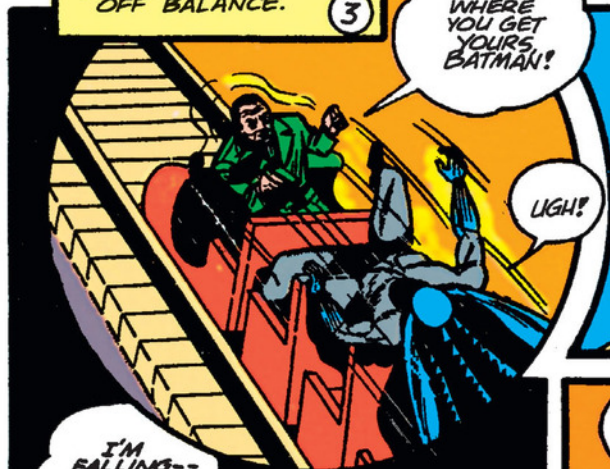
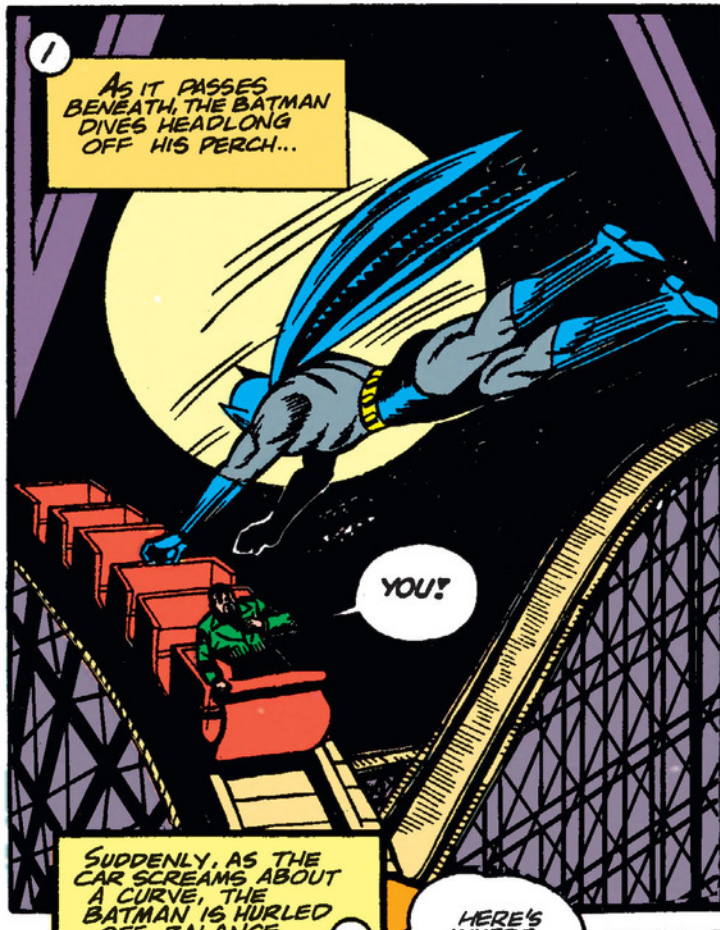














No. 52



The **BATMAN**

Detective COMICS

JUNE

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



BAT MAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

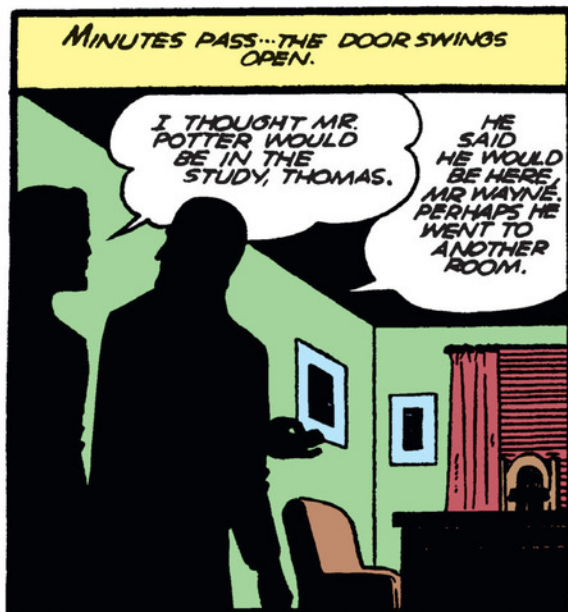
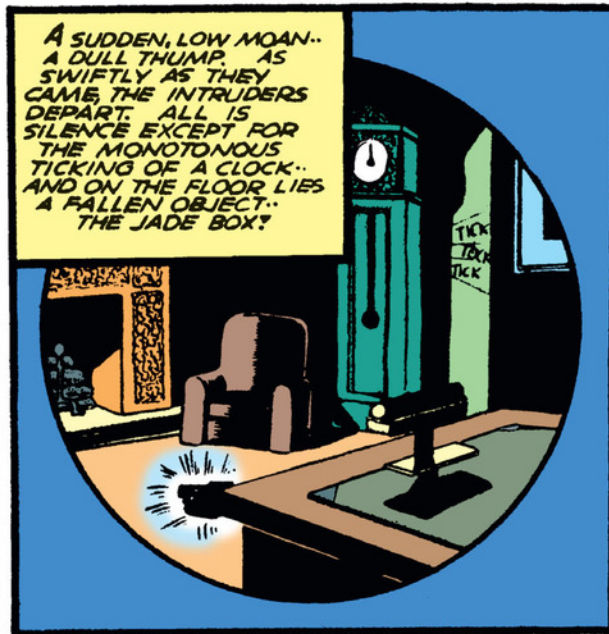
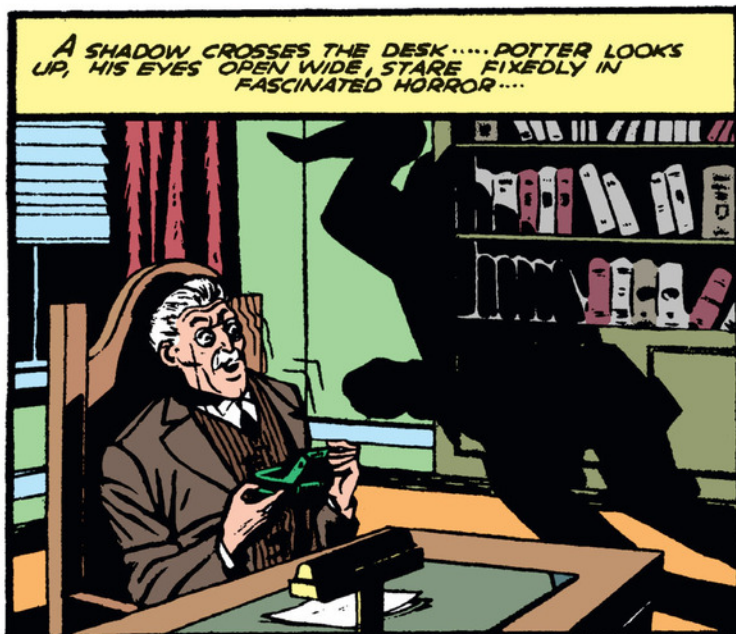
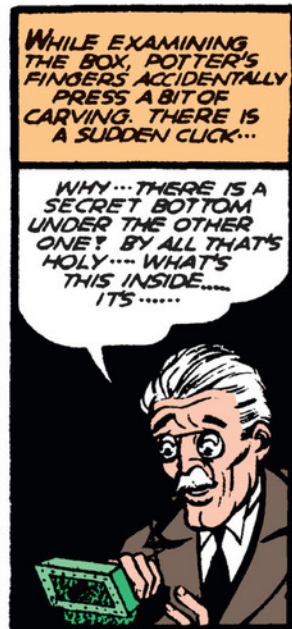
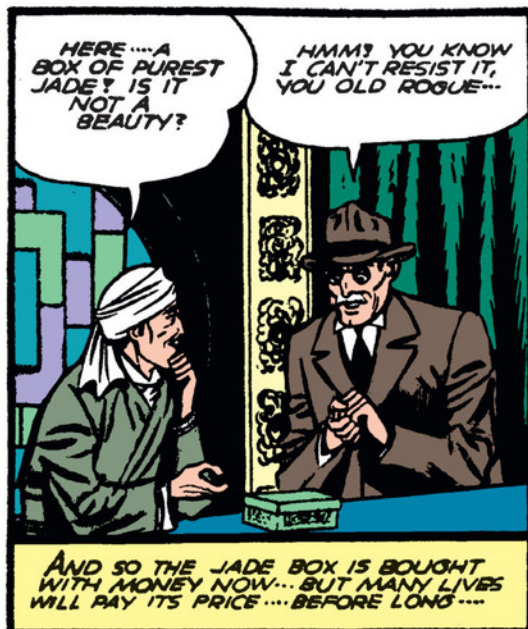
by
BOB KANE

IT WAS JUST A SMALL BOX OF GREEN JADE, BUT IT CONTAINED SOMETHING MEN WANTED, AND BECAUSE OF IT MEN DIED. IT WAS A PUZZLE, THIS BOX YET THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO WAS TO SOLVE ITS MYSTERY....SOMEONE WHOSE WAYS WERE EQUALLY AS MYSTERIOUS...SOMEONE WEIRD, A FLITTING CREATURE OF DARKNESS...THAT SOMEONE WAS THE BATMAN! AIDED BY ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, THE BATMAN WAS TO INVESTIGATE AND REVEAL TO ALL WHAT LAY BEHIND "THE SECRET OF THE JADE BOX"

A MAN WALKS INTO A CURIO SHOP, AND OUR TALE BEGINS....

GOOD AFTERNOON, ACHMED. WELL, HAVE YOU ANYTHING NEW TO SELL ME FOR MY JADE COLLECTION?

AH, MR. POTTER, YOU ARE MOST FORTUNATE, FOR I MADE A LARGE PURCHASE THIS VERY MORNING, AND FOUND SOMETHING JUST FOR YOU.



THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED...

NOTHING
STOLEN, THE
MAN HAD NO
ENEMIES, YET
HE WAS
MURDERED?
IT ISN'T
RIGHT?

THE FINGER-
PRINTS ON THE
KNIFE DON'T
CHECK WITH
ANY ON
FILE? IT'S
A TOUGH
ONE?



THIS IS GOING
DOWN ON
THE BOOK AS
"MURDER BY
PERSON OR
PERSONS
UNKNOWN?"

YOU
WON'T
NEED ME
ANY LONGER
SO I'LL BE
TODDLING
ALONG?



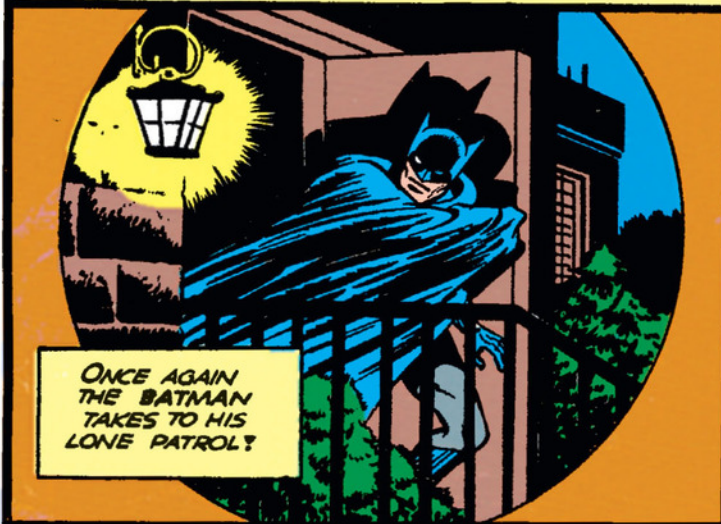
AT HIS HOME, BRUCE
TELLS HIS YOUNG WARD,
DICK GRAYSON, OF THE CASE.

THIS
SORT OF
LOOKS
LIKE A
PERFECT
CRIME, EH,
BRUCE?
NO
CLUES...

AH, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG.
THERE IS A
CLUE, AND
ONLY I AND
THOMAS KNOW
ABOUT IT...
BUT ONLY I
KNOW
IT'S A
CLUE?



A WEIRD, CLOSE-FITTING COSTUME TRANSFORMS
BRUCE WAYNE INTO THE MAN THAT IS THE "EYES
OF NIGHT"... THE BATMAN?



ONCE AGAIN
THE BATMAN
TAKES TO HIS
LONE PATROL?

SOMETIME LATER, HIS TALL, CLOAKED
FIGURE INCHES UP THE VINE THAT CLINGS
OUTSIDE THE POTTER HOME...



WHO...
WHAT
ARE
YOU?

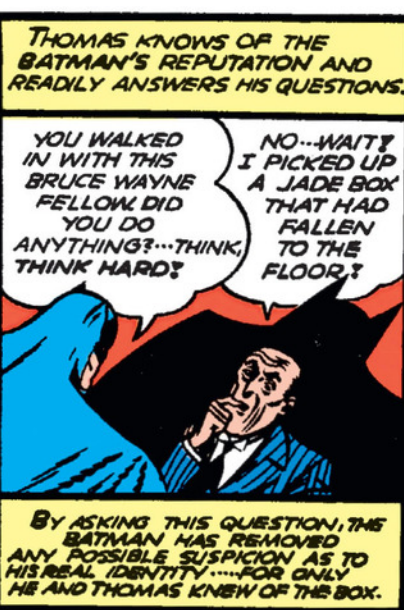
WHO IS BETTER.
I'M THE BATMAN!
I WANT TO FIND
OUT WHO
KILLED YOUR MASTER
AND WHY. WILL
YOU HELP ME?



THOMAS KNOWS OF THE
BATMAN'S REPUTATION AND
READILY ANSWERS HIS QUESTIONS.

YOU WALKED
IN WITH THIS
BRUCE WAYNE
FELLOW. DID
YOU DO
ANYTHING?...THINK,
THINK HARD?

NO...WAIT?
I PICKED UP
A JADE BOX
THAT HAD
FALLEN TO
THE FLOOR?

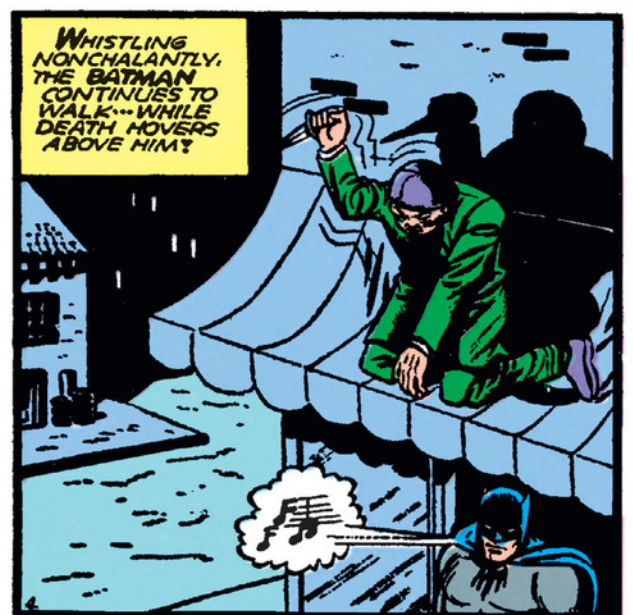
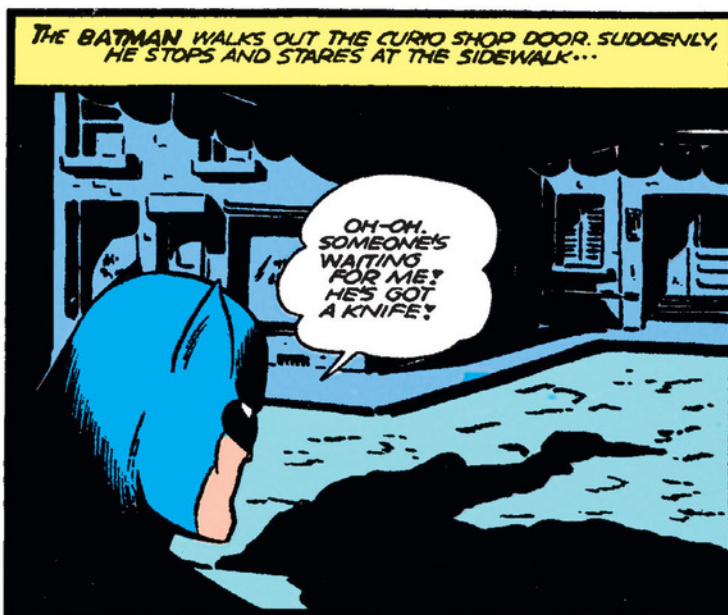
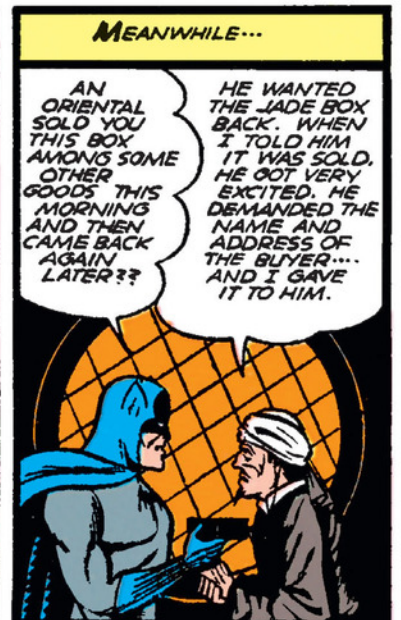
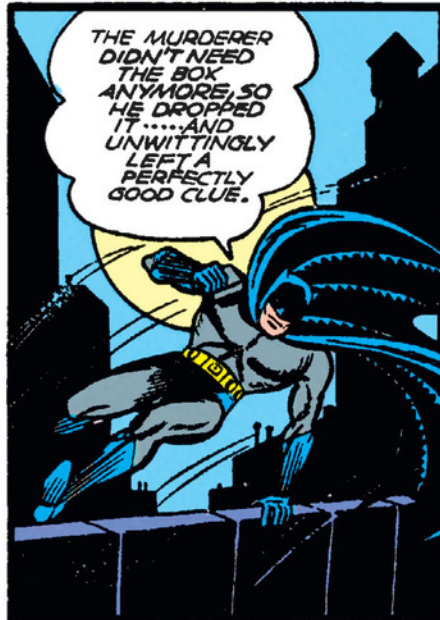
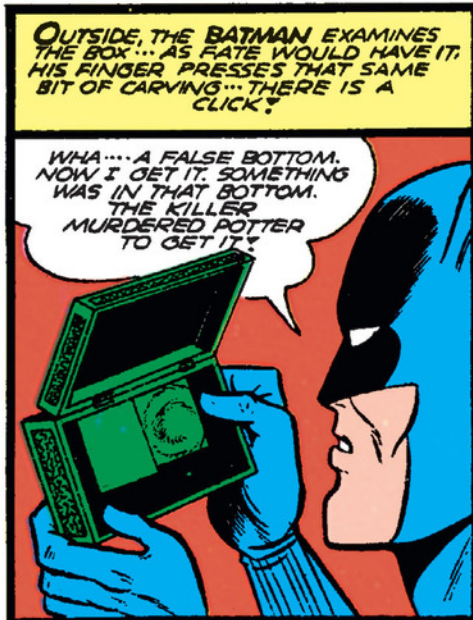


BY ASKING THIS QUESTION, THE
BATMAN HAS REMOVED
ANY POSSIBLE SUSPICION AS TO
HIS REAL IDENTITY... FOR ONLY
HE AND THOMAS KNEW OF THE BOX.

THE
MASTER
HAD ONLY
PURCHASED
IT THIS
MORNING
FROM AHMED,
THE CURIO
DEALER.

THE
POLICE DON'T
KNOW OF
THIS YET...
SO DON'T TELL
THEM. DON'T
TELL THEM
TILL YOU
HEAR FROM
ME?

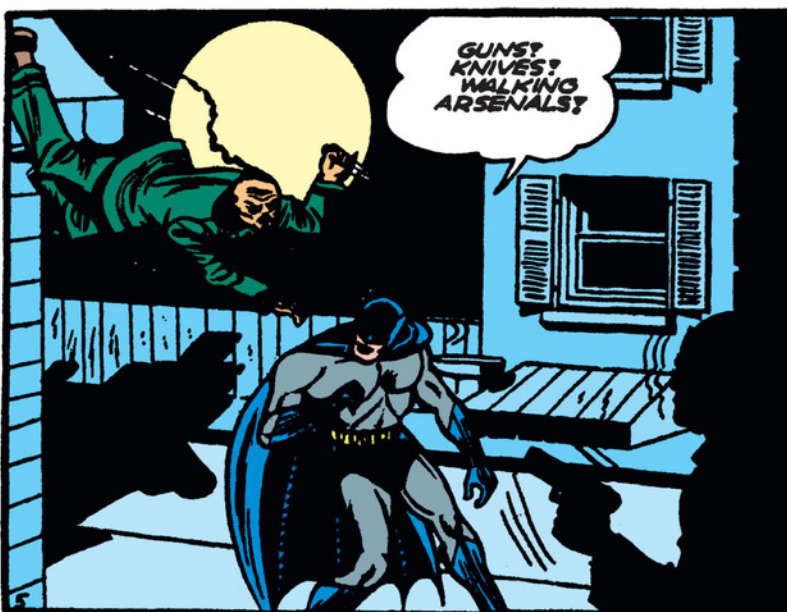
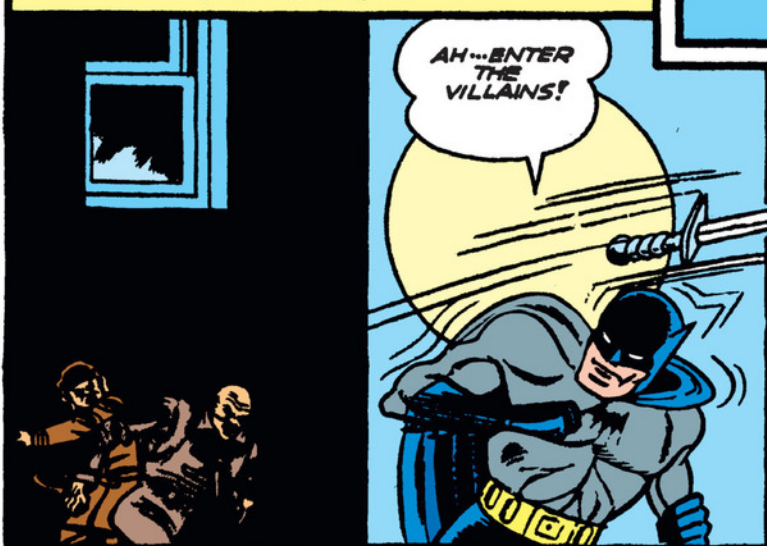




ABRUPTLY, THE BATMAN WHIPS INTO ACTION!



THE BATMAN DROPS TO THE GROUND AND SWERVES INSTANTLY AS A KNIFE HISSES PAST HIS EAR....



A FIST LIKE A CHUNK OF STEEL SLAMS AGAINST THE ORIENTALS' JAW?

ALL THIS ENTERTAINMENT YOU'VE PROVIDED ME HAS BEEN VERY LOVELY, BUT I'M GETTING RATHER TIRED OF IT?

HEY WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

ENTER THE LAW?

THE POLICEMAN GIVES CHASE. HE RACES DOWN A DARK ALLEY... AND SUDDENLY HALTS...

...AND WHEN THE POLICEMAN RACES TO WHERE THE FALLEN ORIENTALS WERE...

THEY'RE GONE, TOO? WONDER WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

DAYS PASS. THEN, STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN IN THE ORIENTAL QUARTER, IN TEA SHOPS, CHOP SUEY PLACES, LAUNDRIES....

YOU WANT TO PROTECT MY LAUNDRY FROM DANGER? BUT WHAT POSSIBLE DANGER CAN THERE BE?

THE WINDOW CAN BE SMASHED...THE CLOTHES TORN. ALL THIS MAY HAPPEN UNLESS YOU PAY US?

GONE?

YOU....YOU ARE GANGSTERS? I WILL NOT... WHAT...

BUZZ??

UPON HEARING THE WORDS WHISPERED IN HIS EAR, THE ORIENTAL'S EYES GROW WIDE WITH FRIGHT. HE PROTESTS NO LONGER?

YES...YES, I WILL TAKE YOUR PROTECTION. I WILL DO SO AT ONCE?

WE ARE GRATIFIED AT YOUR SUDDEN HASTE. IT IS MOST WISE... MOST WISE?

AND SO IT IS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF CHINATOWN. INNOCENT STORE-KEEPERS PAY FOR "PROTECTION" UPON A FEW WORDS WHISPERED IN THEIR EARS?

THE SITUATION BECOMES A GRAVE ONE.....SO GRAVE, A COMMITTEE CALLS ON THE HONORABLE UNOFFICIAL MAYOR OF THE ORIENTAL QUARTER.... LOO CHUNG.

MY HUMBLE HOUSE IS GREATLY HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE. BUT WHAT BUSINESS CAN YOU HAVE WITH CHUNG?

THIS "PROTECTION" WE ARE FORCED TO PAY. WE COME TO YOU WITH A PLAN TO FIGHT THIS MENACE.

THE POLICE CANNOT HELP SO WE MUST TURN TO ONE WHO HAS AIDED US BEFORE.

IT IS HE OF THE DARK CLOTHING AND WINGS OF THE FLYING BAT...HE WHO IS CALLED... BATMAN?

DID I HEAR MY NAME SPOKEN?

IT... IT IS HE... THE BATMAN?

I CAME TO SEE CHUNG ON ANOTHER MATTER, BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE LET'S HAVE THE DETAILS OF THIS "PROTECTION" RACKET.

ONE MUST GO BACK TO 1203 WHEN THE GREAT MONGOL CONQUEROR, GENGIS KHAN, RULED ALL ASIA.

"HE WAS A CRUEL MAN AND RULED WITH AN IRON HAND.... AND ON THAT HAND WAS A RING?"

THIS IS THE RING OF GENGIS KHAN. WHEN I DIE, MY SON SHALL WEAR IT AND BECOME A RULER AS SHALL HIS SONS...TO THE END OF TIME?

THE RING.



"LATER, THE KHAN RULE WAS ENDED, BUT STILL MEN FLOCKED TO HIS DESCENDANTS WHO WORE THE RING.."

LISTEN TO ME. THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE MUST PAY TRIBUTE AS THEY DID TO MY GREAT FOREFATHERS

AI? TRULY IT SHALL BE SO?

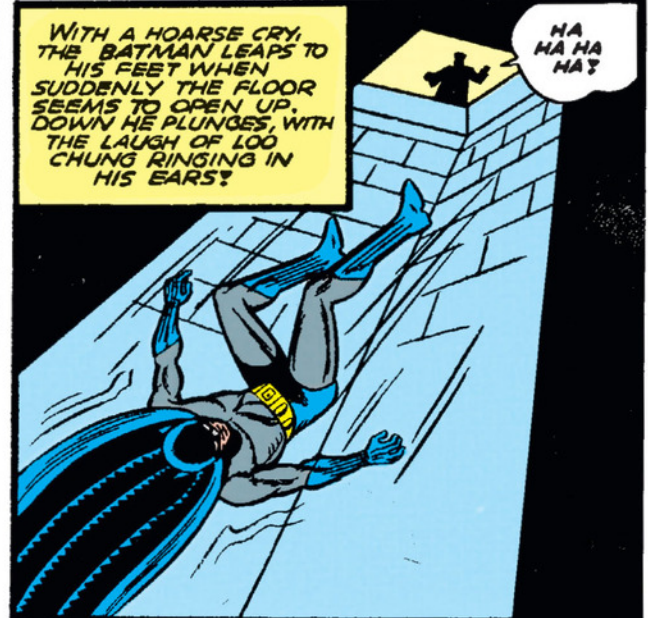
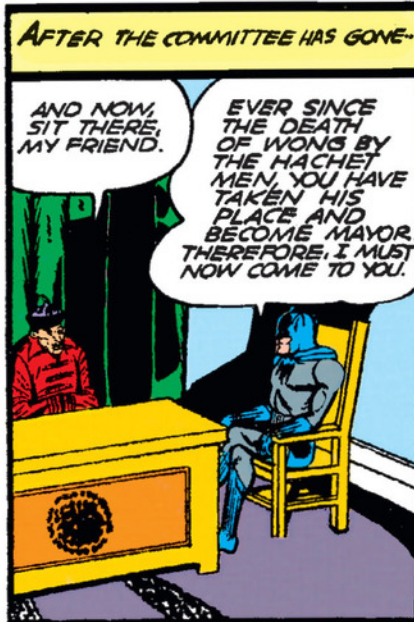
"AND SO DOWN THE AGES A KHAN GATHERED 'ROUND HIM A GROUP OF CUT-THROATS AND BANDITS WHO PLAGUED THE PEOPLE OF SMALL TOWNS?"



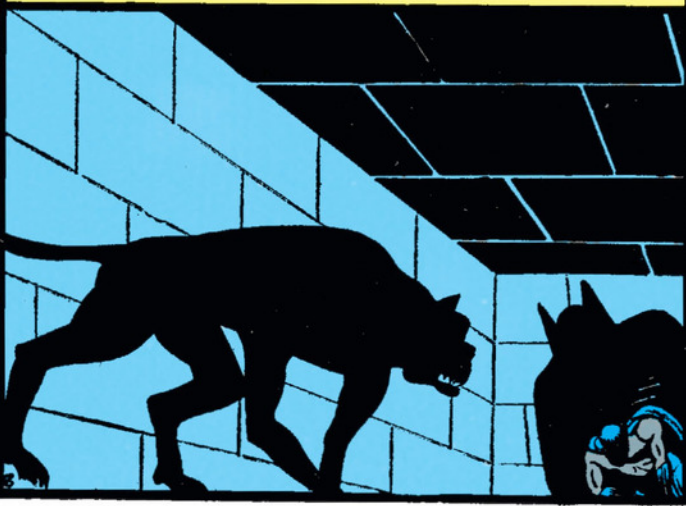
FOR A LONG TIME, OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN BOTHERED BY KHAN BANDITS, BUT NOW...

NOW WE HAVE HEARD THAT A KHAN WEARS THE RING HERE IN AMERICA?

I SEE...A KHAN HAS STARTED THIS "TRIBUTE" RACKET HERE. TIMES HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, IT SEEMS?

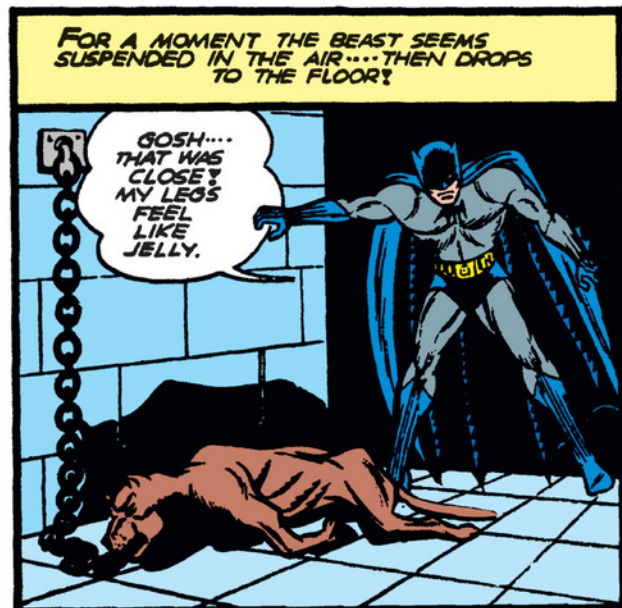
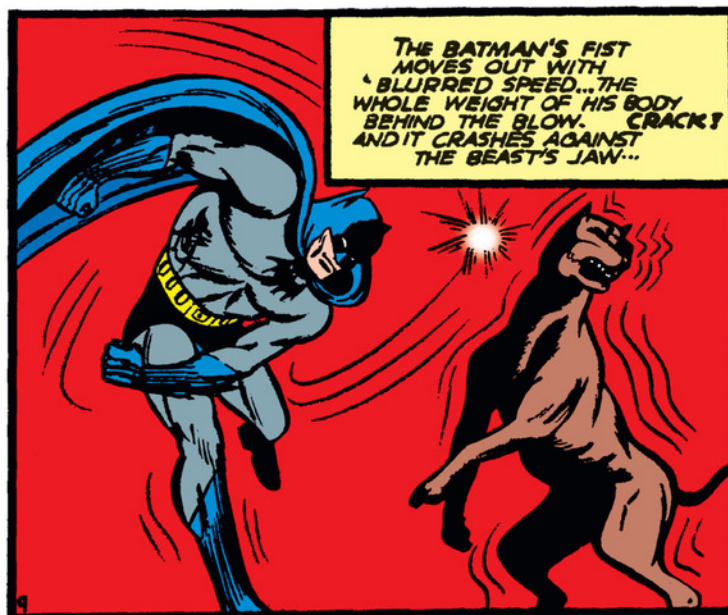
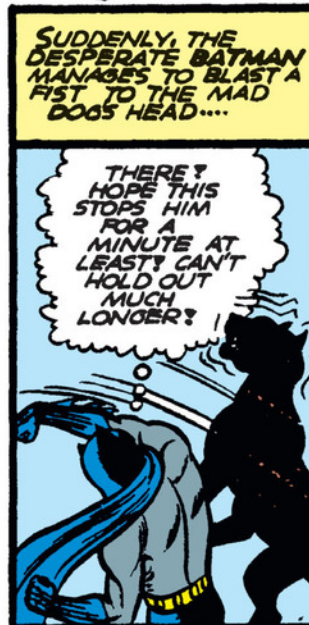


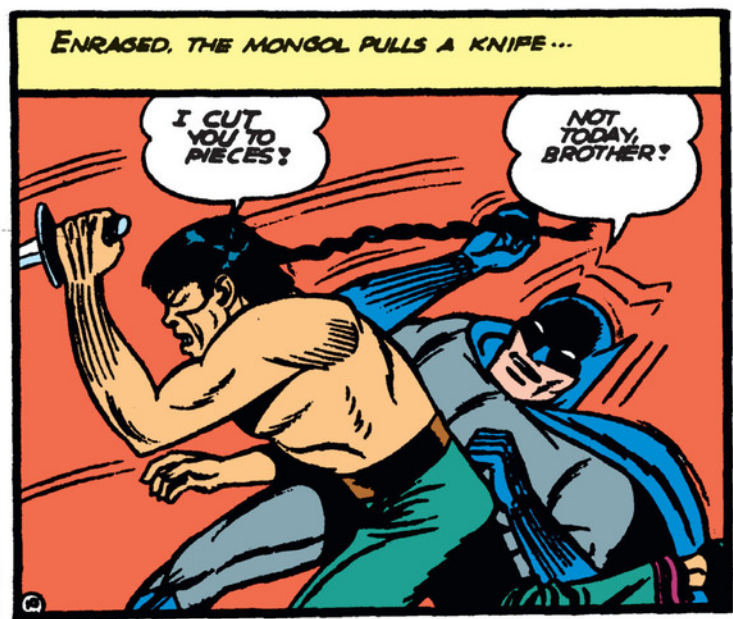
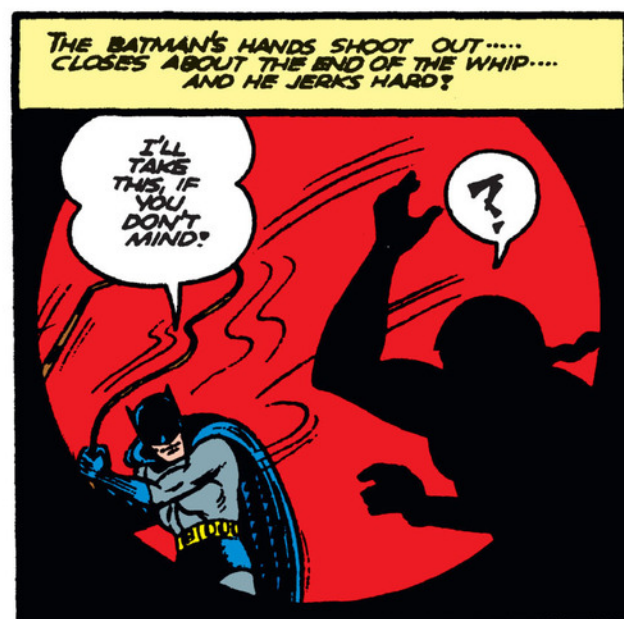
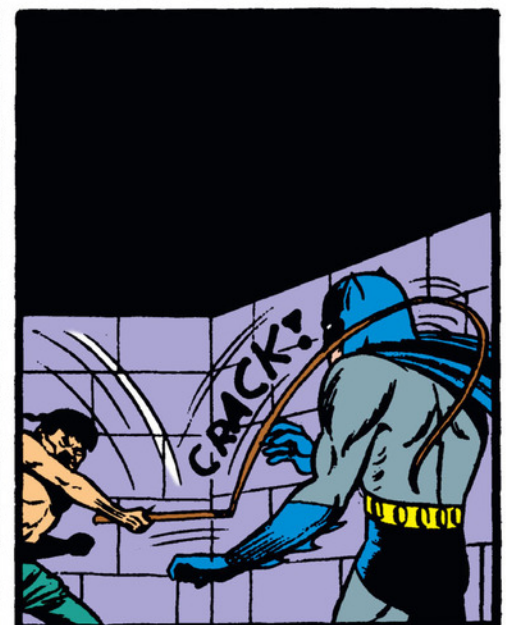
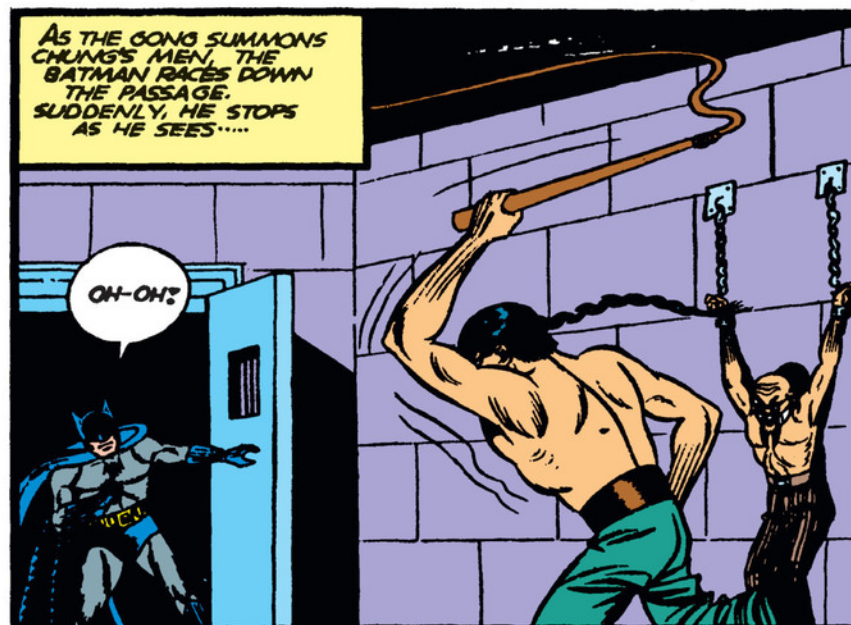
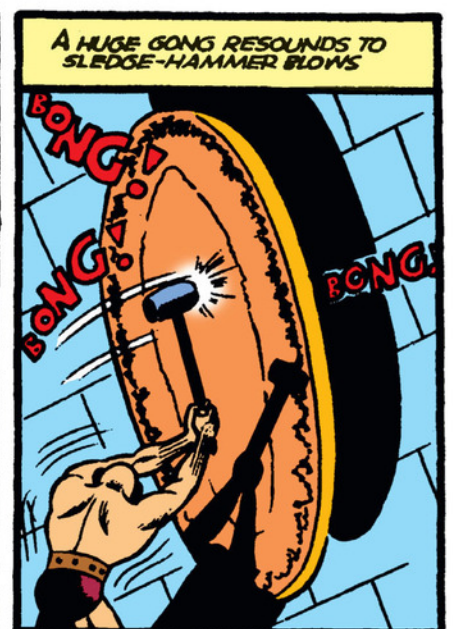
THE BATMAN HITS THE HARD CEMENT BOTTOM AND LIES DAZED. A GIANT SHAPE MOVES TOWARD HIM FROM THE SHADOWS...

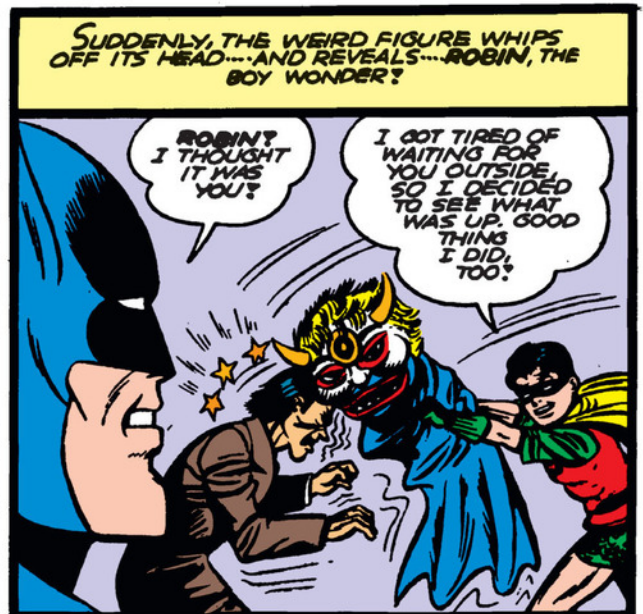


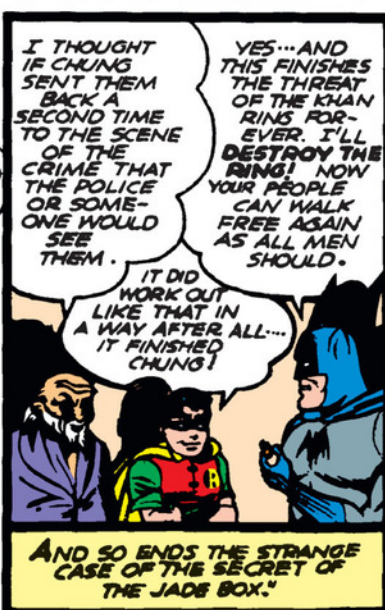
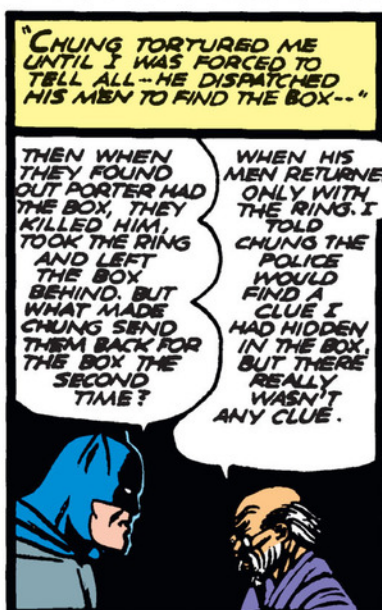
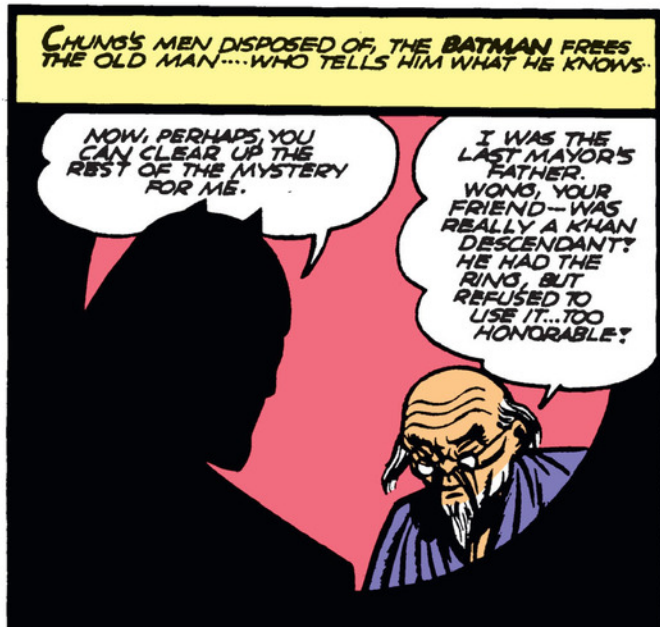
AS THE BATMAN RAISES HIS HAND, THE BEAST LEAPS!













No. 53

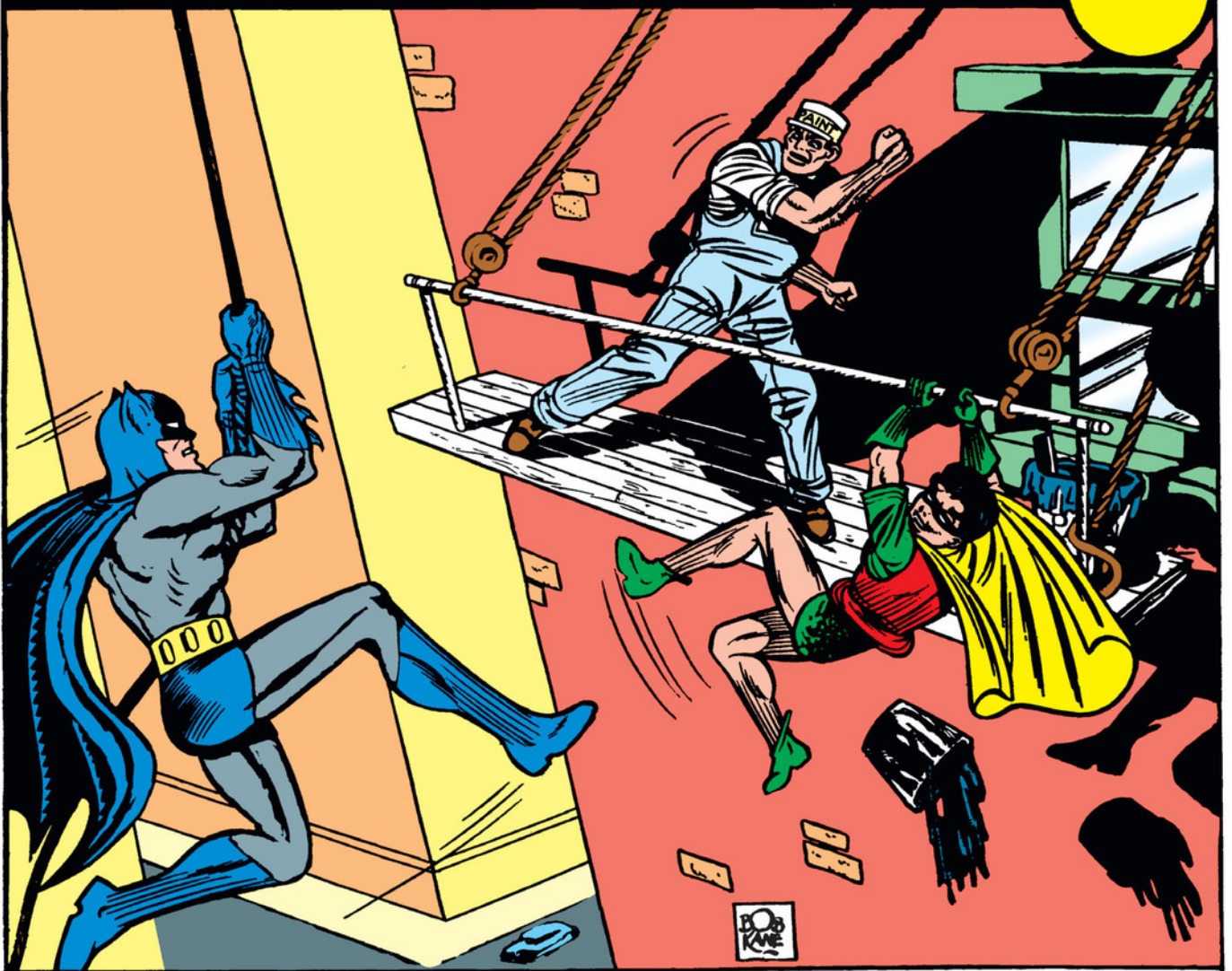


The **BATMAN**

JULY

Detective COMICS

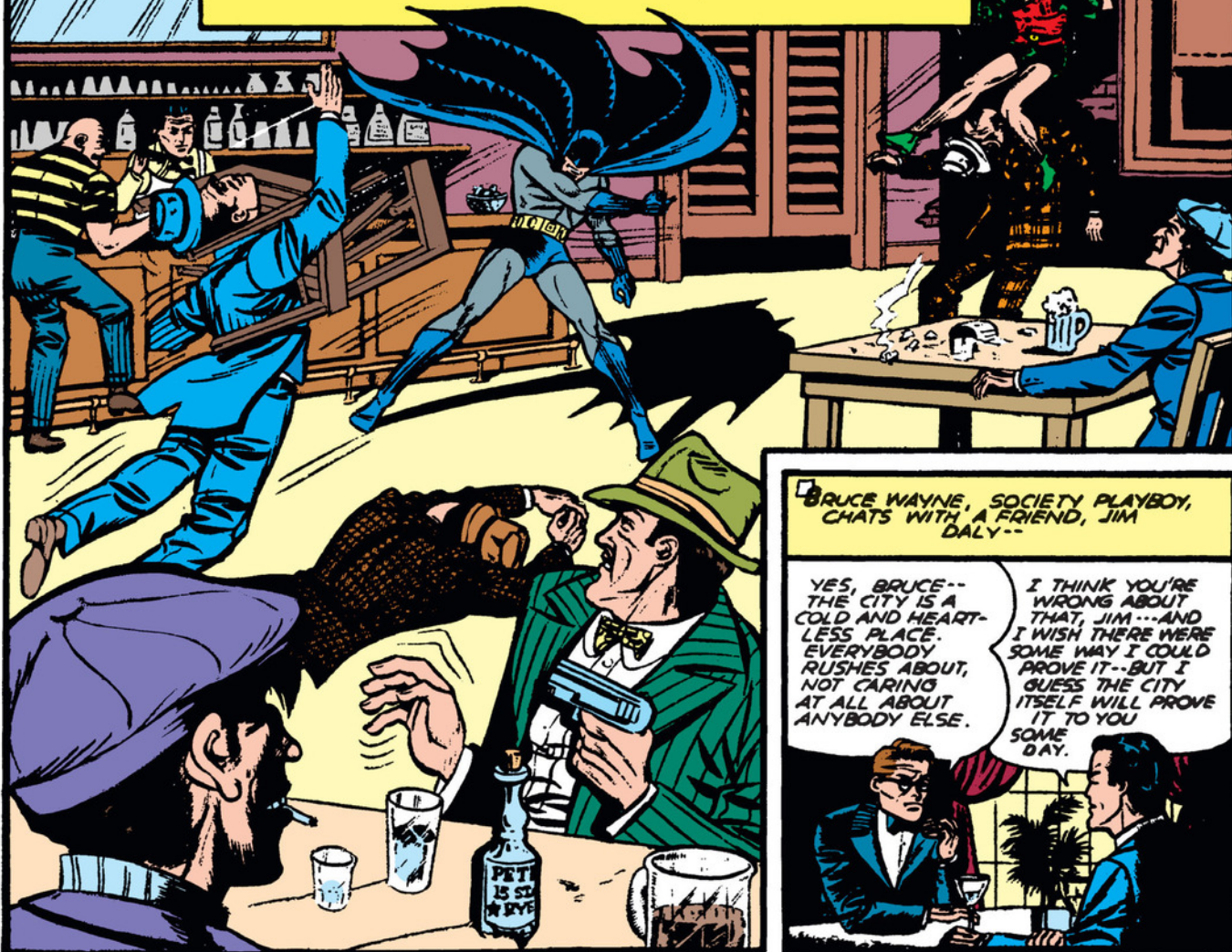
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

GLITTERING, IRRESISTIBLE-THAT VAST MAGNET WHICH IS GOTHAM CITY DRAWS TO ITSELF AN ARMY OF MILLIONS YEARLY FROM EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN AMERICA. THERE IS NO WITHSTANDING ITS LURE ----FOR HERE IS A CITY WHERE YOU MAY TOUCH THE CLOUDS ATOP SOME TOWERING SKY-SCRAPER--OR GO DOWN DEEP IN THE EARTH TO RIDE ABOARD ITS ROARING SUBWAY TRAINS? TO GOTHAM CITY THEY COME--TO CARVE THEIR NAMES IN FOOT-HIGH LETTERS ON THE FAMOUS SIDEWALKS. SOME SUCCEED ---SOME FAIL SOME LEAVE --- SOME STAY? SOME CURSE THE CITY, OTHERS LOVE IT? BUT EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT GOTHAM CITY---FOR NO ONE MAY IGNORE THIS GIGANTIC, HUMAN ANT HEAP! THIS STORY IS WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE CITY. PERHAPS YOU WILL AGREE WITH US---



BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, CHATS WITH A FRIEND, JIM DALY--

YES, BRUCE-- THE CITY IS A COLD AND HEART-LESS PLACE. EVERYBODY RUSHES ABOUT, NOT CARING AT ALL ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE.

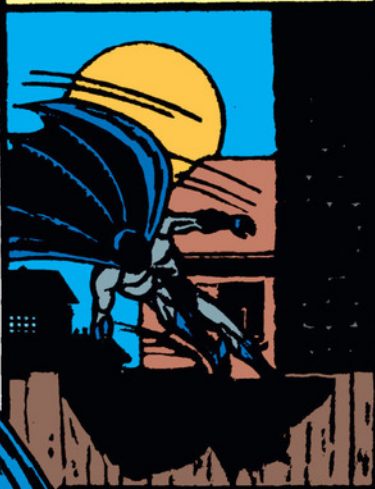
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT, JIM---AND I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD PROVE IT--BUT I GUESS THE CITY ITSELF WILL PROVE IT TO YOU SOME DAY.

NIGHT COVERS THE CITY'S WEARY INHABITANTS WITH A BLANKET OF DARKNESS... BUT FOR BRUCE WAYNE, HIS DAY IS JUST BEGINNING....



FOR HE, IN REALITY, IS THAT PERSONALITY KNOWN AS THE "EYES OF NIGHT".....THE BATMAN?

OUT IN THE NIGHT RACES THE FIGURE OF THE BATMAN...THE WAITING DARKNESS SWALLOWS HIM!

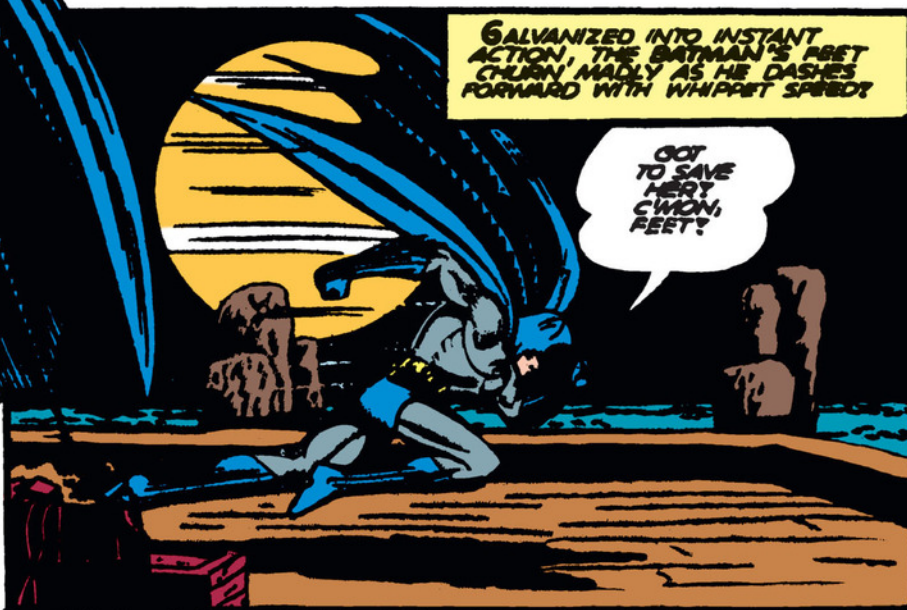


HE PATROLS HIS FAVORITE HAUNT... THE WATERFRONT. SUDDENLY, HE SEES....

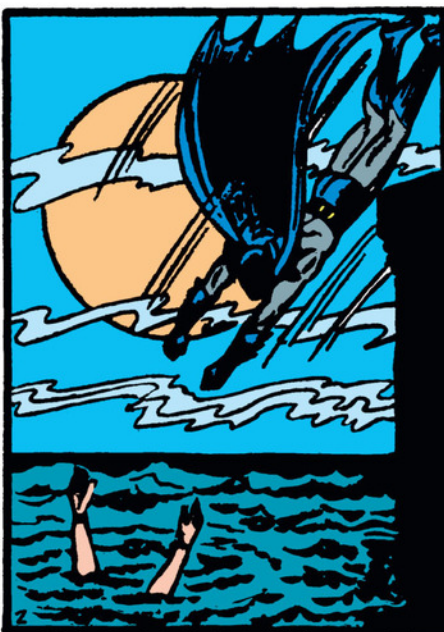


THAT GIRL-- TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE!

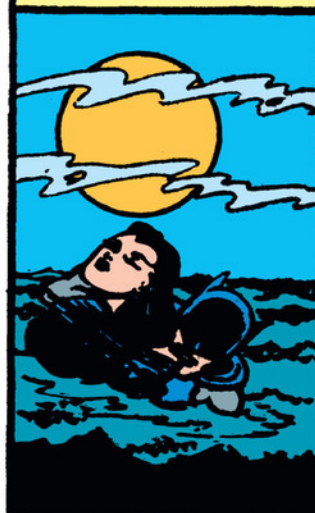
GALVANIZED INTO INSTANT ACTION, THE BATMAN'S FEET CHURN MADLY AS HE DASHES FORWARD WITH WHIPPET SPEED!

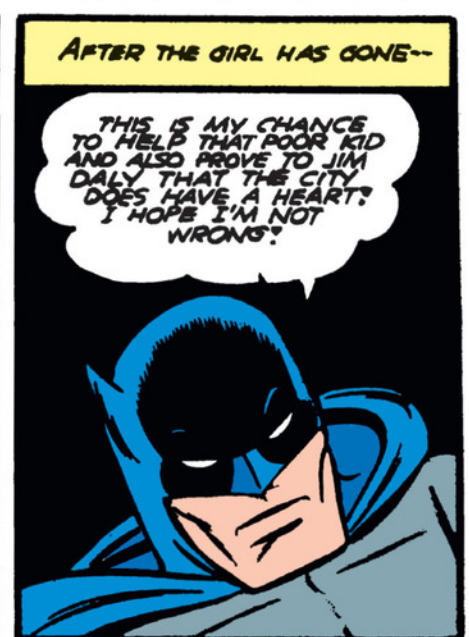
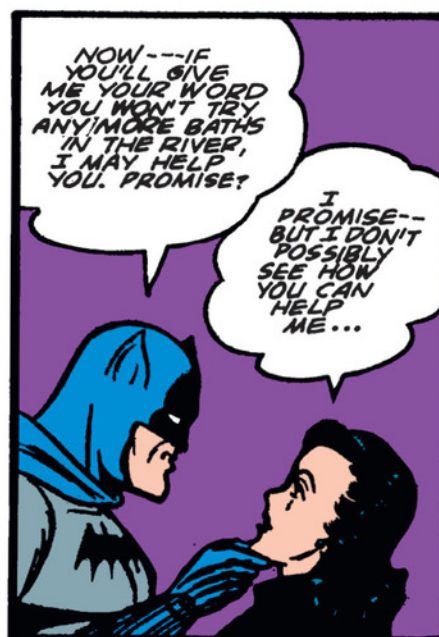
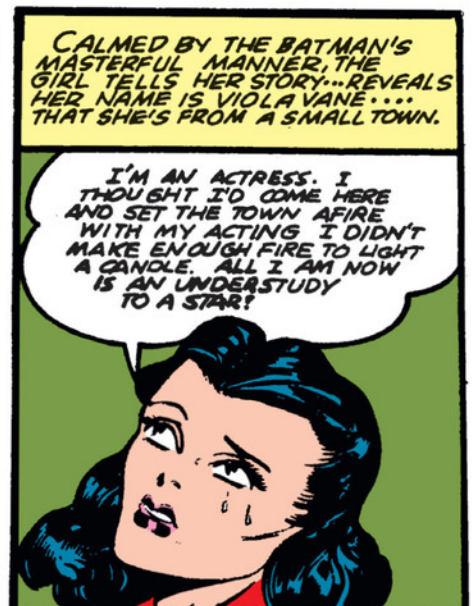
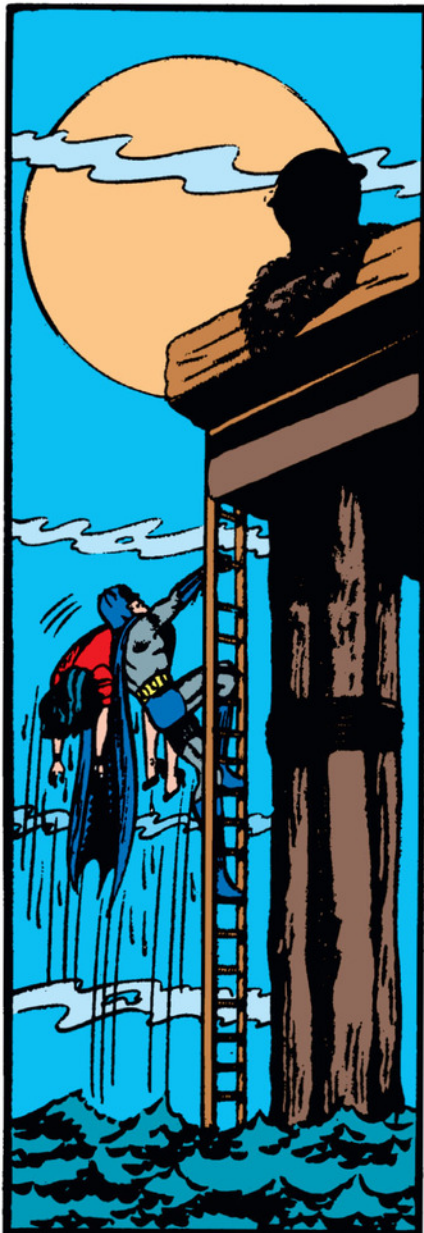


OOT TO SAVE HERT C'WON, FEET?



FIRMLY GRIPPING THE WOULD-BE SUICIDE, HE SWIMS TO THE PIER--





LATER IN THE NIGHTCLUB--



AND NOW A LITTLE SURPRISE, CUSTOMERS. WE PRESENT FOR THE FIRST TIME--

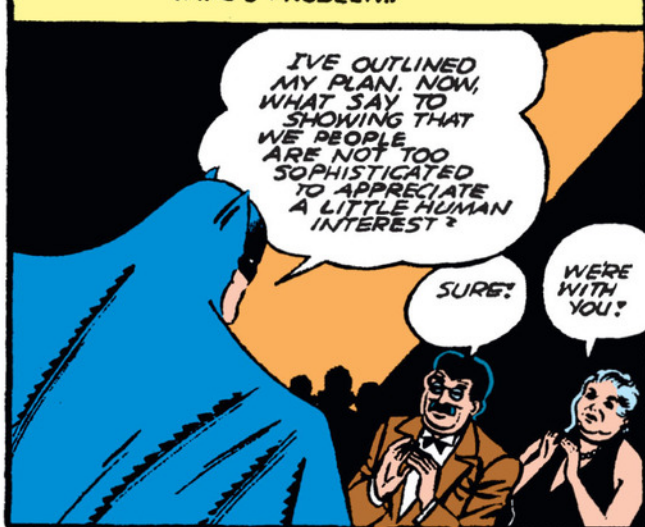
THANKS FOR THE INTRODUCTION! I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT IT!

LOOK! THE BATMAN!

DON'T TELL ME HE'S PART OF THE FLOOR SHOW.



THE BATMAN QUICKLY QUIETS THE PEOPLE AND TELLS THEM OF VIOLA VANE'S PROBLEM.



I'VE OUTLINED MY PLAN. NOW, WHAT SAY TO SHOWING THAT WE PEOPLE ARE NOT TOO SOPHISTICATED TO APPRECIATE A LITTLE HUMAN INTEREST?

SURE?

WERE WITH YOU?

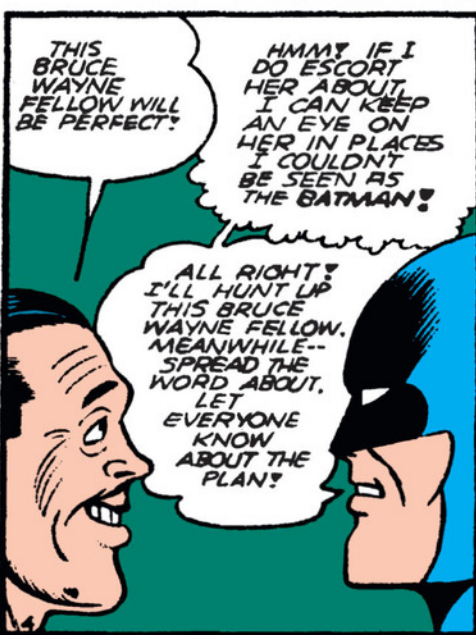


THE GIRL WILL NEED AN ESCORT, SOMEONE HANDSOME, WEALTHY, AND GOOD-NATURED ENOUGH TO PLAY ALONG WITH OUR PLAN.

I KNOW JUST THE FELLOW! HE'S A BIT LAZY, BUT WEALTHY AND GOOD LOOKING.

HIS NAME IS BRUCE WAYNE?

GULP-- THAT'S ME!



THIS BRUCE WAYNE FELLOW WILL BE PERFECT!

HMMY IF I DO ESCORT HER ABOUT, I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER IN PLACES I COULDN'T BE SEEN AS THE BATMAN!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL HUNT UP THIS BRUCE WAYNE FELLOW. MEANWHILE-- SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT, LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THE PLAN!

THE BATMAN GOES FROM NIGHTSPOT TO NIGHTSPOT TELLING EVERYONE OF VIOLA VANE. THEN HE CALLS ON THE RADIO NETWORKS.

THE WHOLE TOWN WILL SOON KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT IF YOU BROADCAST IT ON THE RADIO, THE GIRL'S PARENTS MIGHT HEAR IT AND---

I UNDERSTAND. YOU MAY REST ASSURED WE WILL NOT BROADCAST ANYTHING PERTAINING TO THE GIRL.

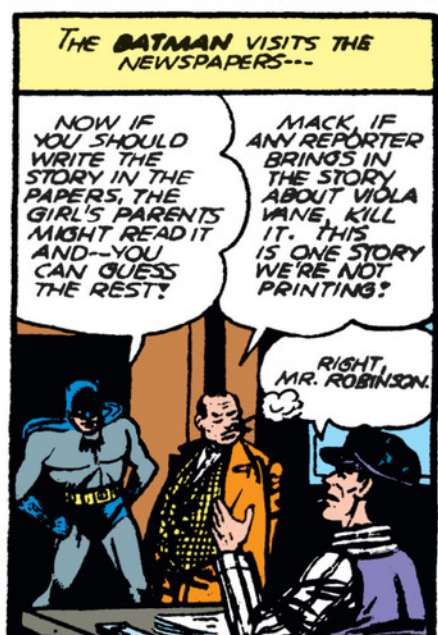


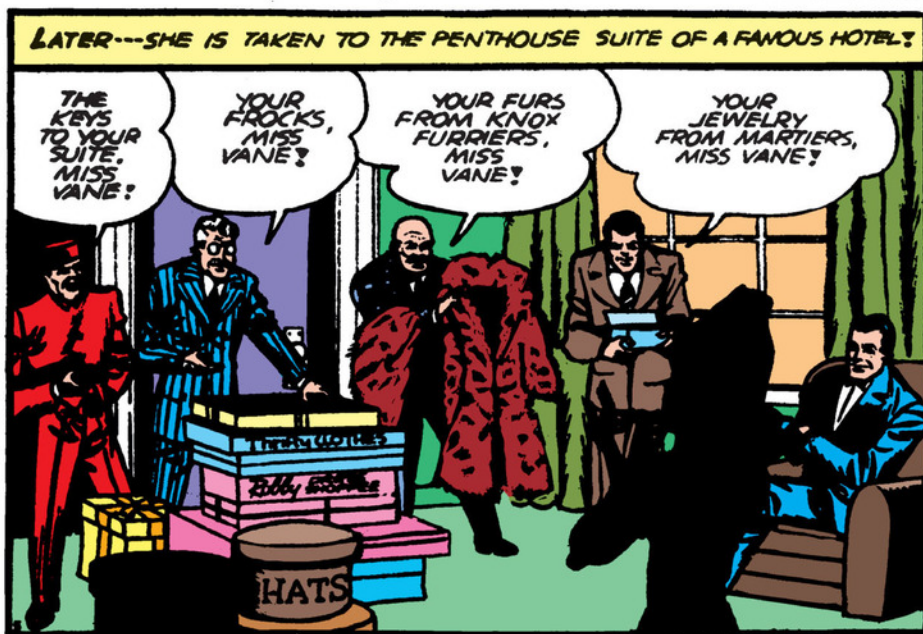
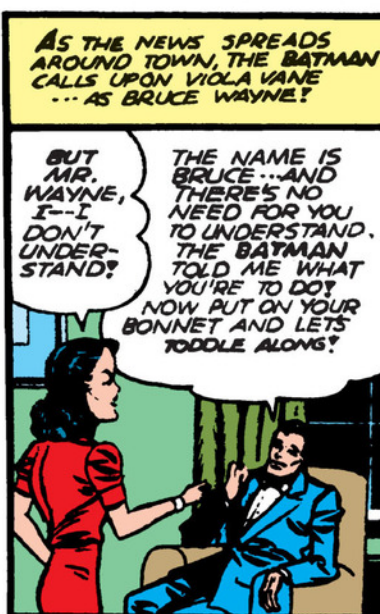
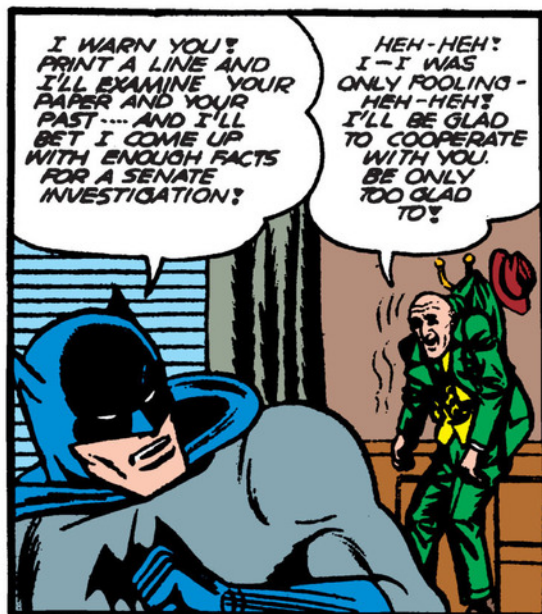
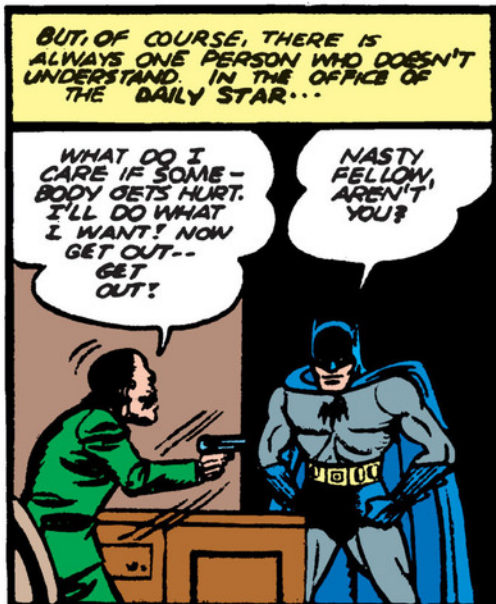
THE BATMAN VISITS THE NEWSPAPERS---

NOW IF YOU SHOULD WRITE THE STORY IN THE PAPERS, THE GIRL'S PARENTS MIGHT READ IT AND--YOU CAN GUESS THE REST!

MACK, IF ANY REPORTER BRINGS IN THE STORY ABOUT VIOLA VANE, KILL IT. THIS IS ONE STORY WE'RE NOT PRINTING!

RIGHT, MR. ROBINSON.





THE NEXT DAY, VIOLA VANE'S PARENTS ARRIVE ----AND AFTER A JOYOUS WELCOME--

MY! THOSE CLOTHES ARE REAL NICE. THEY MUST HAVE COST YOU A PRETTY PENNY!

ER--WELL, MRS. VANE--- VIOLA IS A BIG STAR AND MUST CRESS THE PART OR HER PUBLIC WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED!

A STAR--- ALWAYS KNEW MY VIOLA WOULD BE A STAR SOME DAY!

LET'S NOT WASTE TIME. I WANT TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING THERE IS TO SEE IN GOTHAM CITY.

ALWAYS DID WANT TO GO TO THE TOP OF THE STATE BUILDING? IS IT REALLY 102 STORIES HIGH?

AND I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF SHOPPING IN A FIFTH AVENUE STORE.

THAT EVENING, AFTER A SWIFT AND EXCITING TOUR OF THE TOWN, THEY TAKE THE OLD COUPLE TO A NIGHTCLUB.

SO THIS IS A NIGHTCLUB? GOSH-- WAIT TILL I TELL THE BOYS BACK HOME.

IT'S JUST LIKE THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN OF THEM IN THE MOVIES!

SUDDENLY, A SPOTLIGHT SHIFTS TO THEIR TABLE----

---AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE TO HAVE WITH US THE GREAT DRAMATIC ACTRESS, VIOLA VANE, WHO IS HERE WITH HER PARENTS?

VIOLA--- LOOK--- THEY'RE APPLAUDING YOU?

YOU MUST BE A VERY POPULAR ACTRESS!

--AND AS FOR THE APPLAUDERS--

LET'S MAKE IT LOOK GOOD FOR THE OLD FOLKS?

THE BATMAN CERTAINLY MUST BE REGULAR, THINKING UP AN IDEA LIKE THIS.

STOP TALKING-- AND APPLAUD!

THE STORY OF VIOLA VANE HAS TRAVELED BY WORD OF MOUTH AROUND THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE EAGERLY JOIN IN THE NOBLE DECEPTION. NIGHTSPOT AFTER NIGHTSPOT APPLAUDS THE "STAR" AND HER PARENTS---

LATER...AFTER THEY REACH THE PENTHOUSE "HOME"---

WELL, GOOD NIGHT, SON. WE SURE DID HAVE A FINE TIME!

MR. WAYNE IS AN EXCEPTIONAL ESCORT, ISN'T HE, VIOLA?

HE CERTAINLY IS, (YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!)

UPON REACHING HOME, BRUCE WAYNE DISCARDS HIS PLAYBOY CLOTHES FOR THAT OF ---THE BATMAN?

BETTER RELIEVE ROBIN--- LEFT HIM GUARDING THOSE FURS AND JEWELS SENT BY KNOX AND MARTIERS? CAN'T LEAVE THEM LYING AROUND LOOSE!

1 THE BATMAN HAS GOOD CAUSE TO WORRY, FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT----

GET THE SETUP BOYS? THIS VIOLA VANE DAME HAS SOME FURS AND JEWELRY GIVEN HER TO USE WHILE HER OLD FOLKS ARE HERE!

YEAH--AN' WE GO UP TO DE PENTHOUSE AND TAKE 'EM--

DAT PENTHOUSE OUGHTA BE A CINCH WHAT WITH DAT OTHER CONSTRUCTION JOB BEIN' PUT UP NEAR IT!



2 DE BATMAN THOUGHT UP THE IDEA FOR DIS VANE DAME'S ACT, EH, TOOTHY?

YEAH...AND AFTER WE TAKE THE STUFF, HE'LL HAVE TA TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE ROBBERY, TOO? HAW HAW!

MAYBE DE COPS WILL THINK HE PULLED DIS JOB HIMSELF. AIN'T DAT A LAUGH? HAW!



3 A SHORT TIME AFTER--- UNKNOWN TO VIOLA VANE, ROBIN SECRETLY PATROLS THE PENTHOUSE WALK.



I DON'T KNOW WHY THE BATMAN TOLD ME TO KEEP WATCH AROUND HERE. GOSH, NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN--

4 BUT SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN----- AND FAST!



5 THE GUNBUTT AND BLACK-NESS SWOOP DOWN ON ROBIN!



THERE-- THAT SHOULD HOLD YOU!

6 SAY--- THAT'S THE ROBIN KID THAT HELPS THE BATMAN. BETTER LET ME PLUG 'IM, TOOTHY.

YEAH-- AND BRING EVERY COP IN THE CITY UP HERE! C'MON-- LET'S GET THE STUFF AND SCRAM!

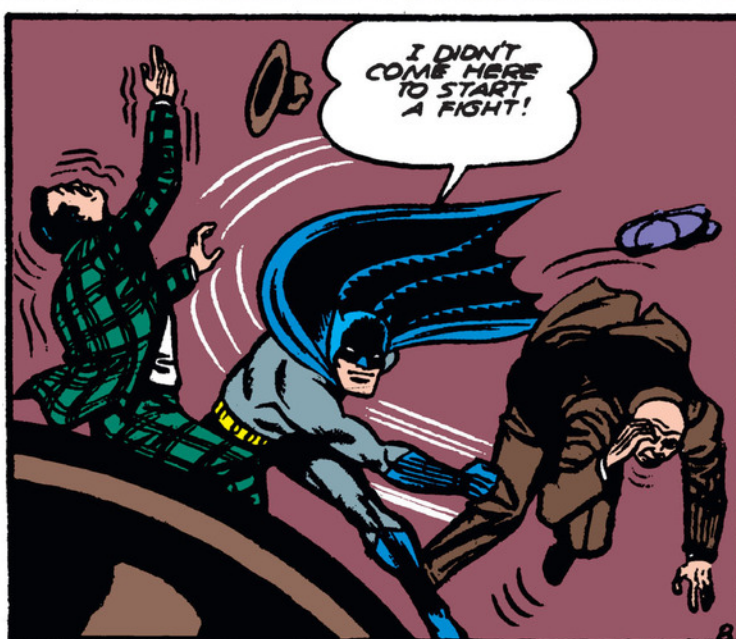
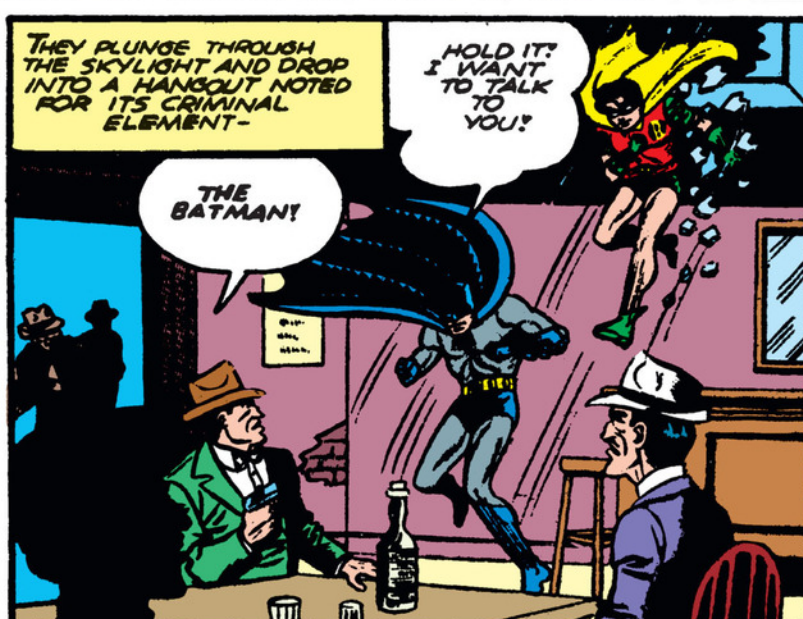
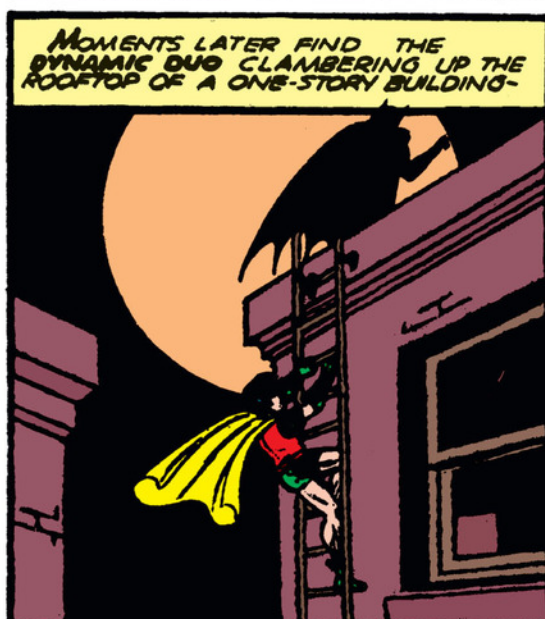


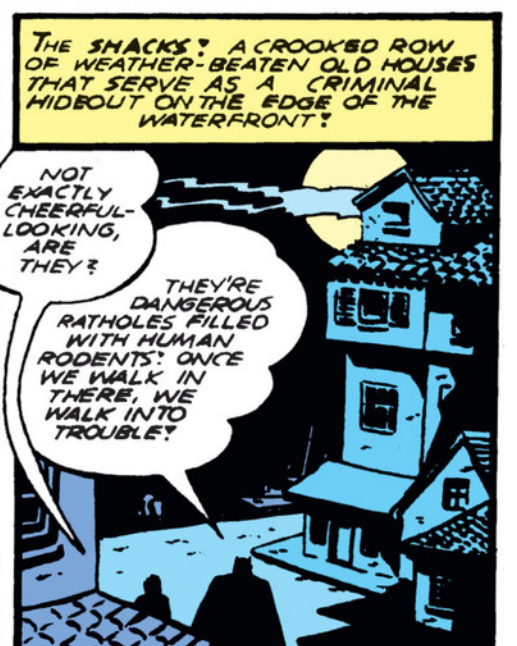
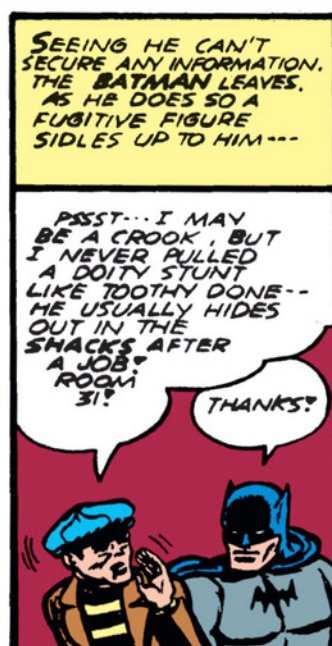
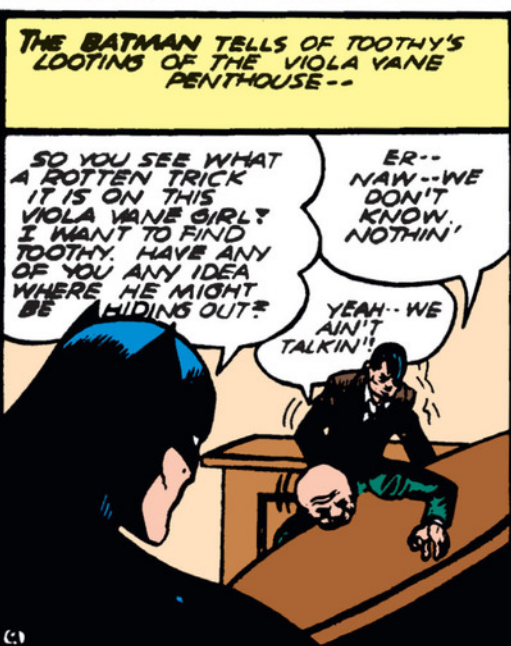
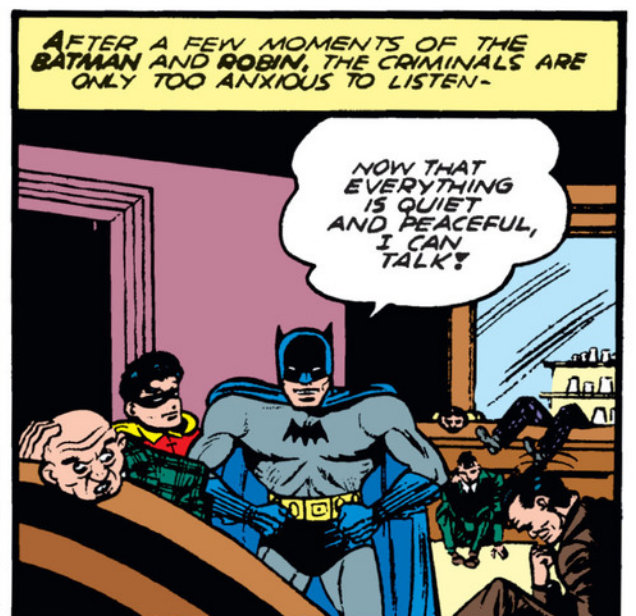
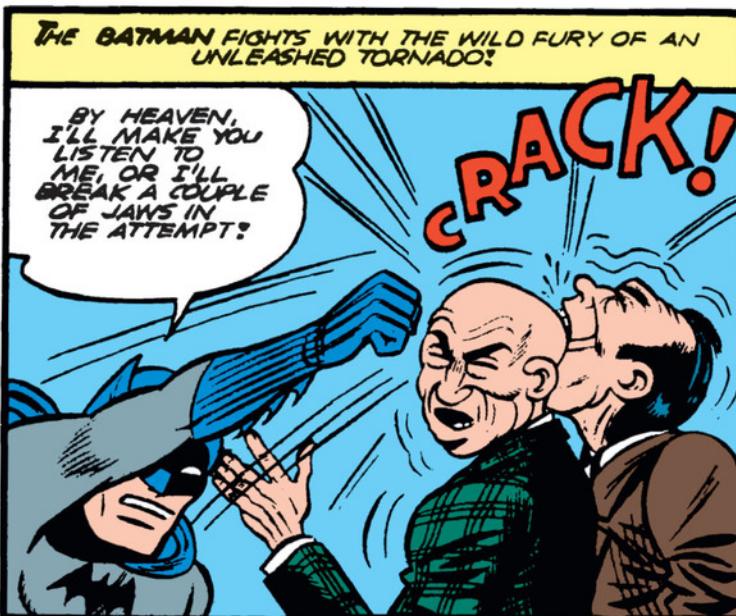
7 MOMENTS PASS. THE CURTAIN OF DARKNESS LIFTS FROM ROBIN'S EYES. A COWLED FIGURE SHAKES HIM...THE BATMAN!

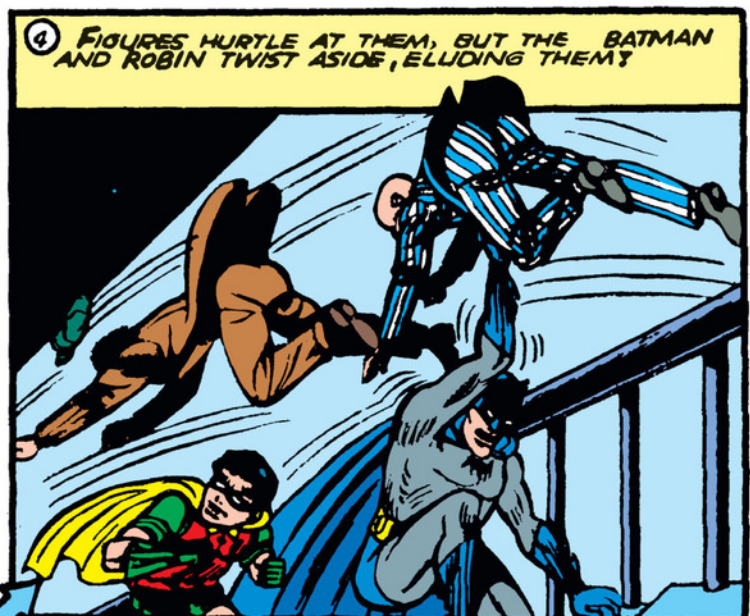
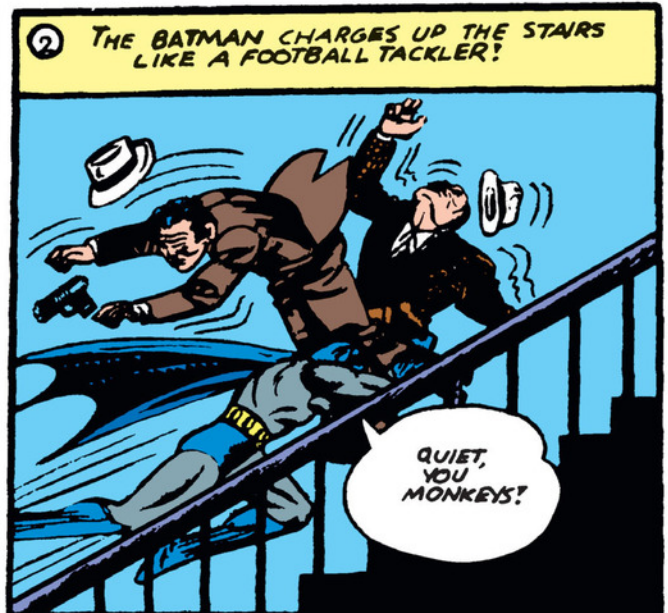
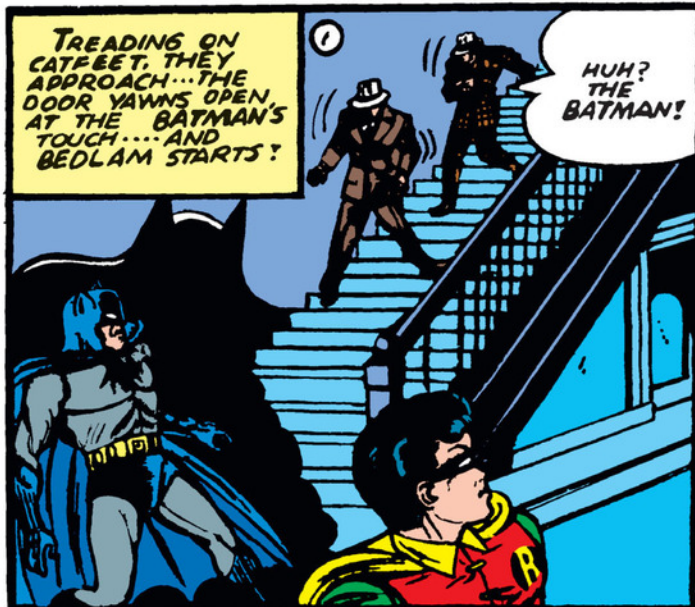
ROBIN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?

FEELS LIKE THE BUILDING FELL ON ME--- WHA-- BATMAN--THREE GUYS--- ONE CLUBBED ME---









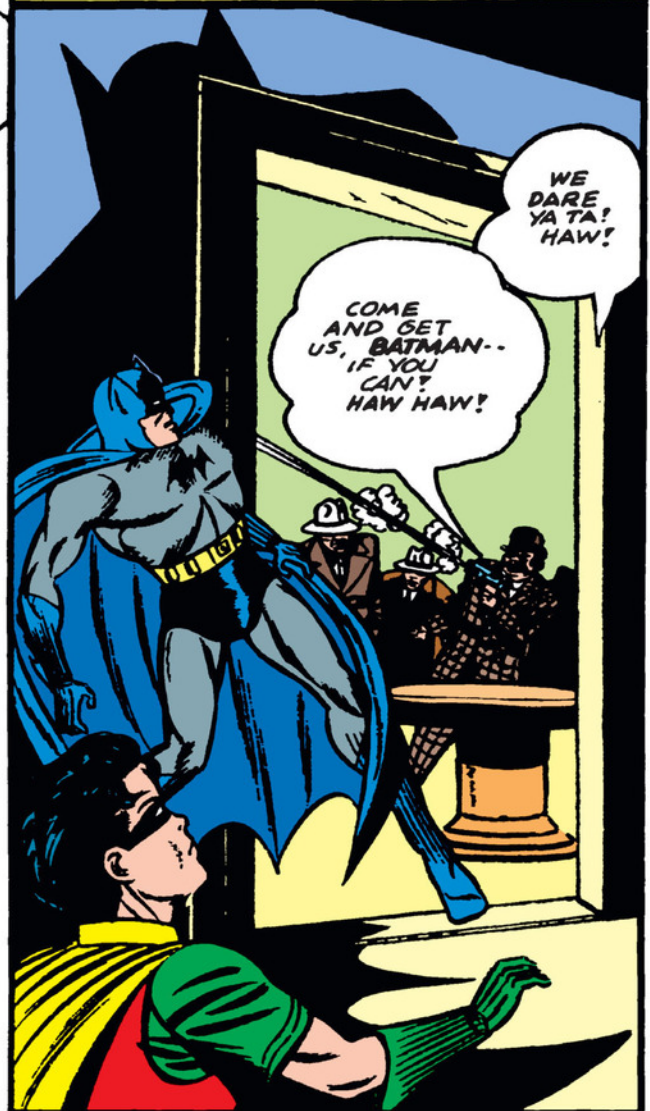
① THE GLASS PELLET SHATTERS WITH A LOUD PLOP! A SLEEPING GAS ROLLS LIKE A FOG OVER THE THUGS.



② A SECOND LATER, THE HOODLUMS LIE UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR!

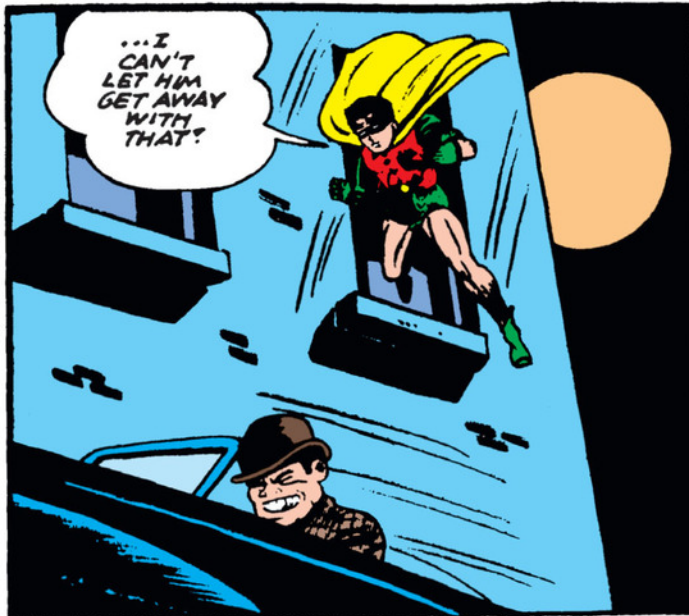


③ THE BATMAN PUSHES THE DOOR OPEN. HE AND ROBIN FLING THEMSELVES TO THE SIDE AS BULLETS BLAST PAST THEM!

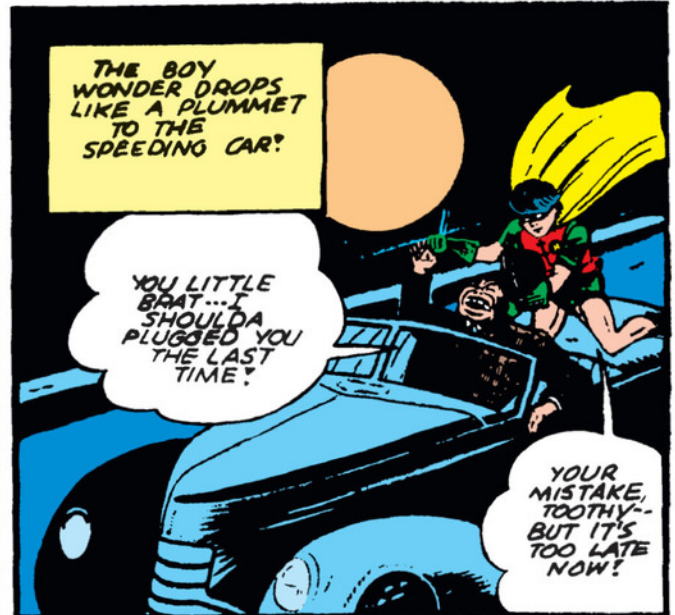


④ WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF CHAIN-LIGHTNING, THE BOY WONDER CHARGES INTO THE ROOM!





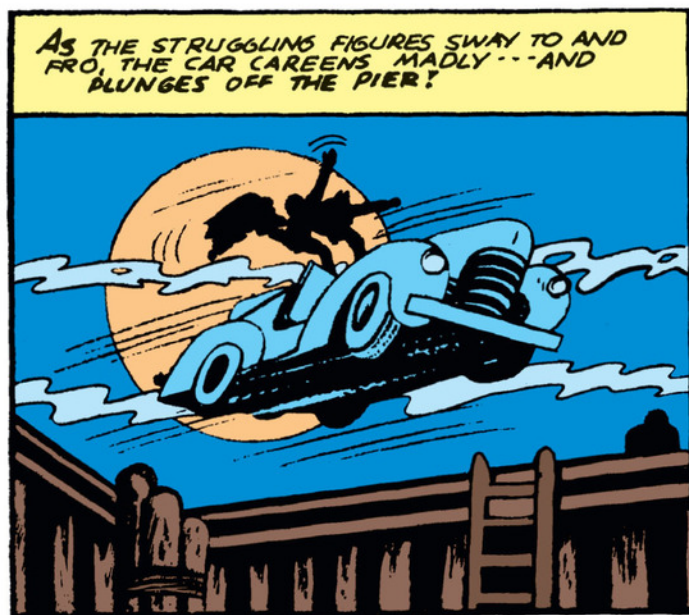
...I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT!



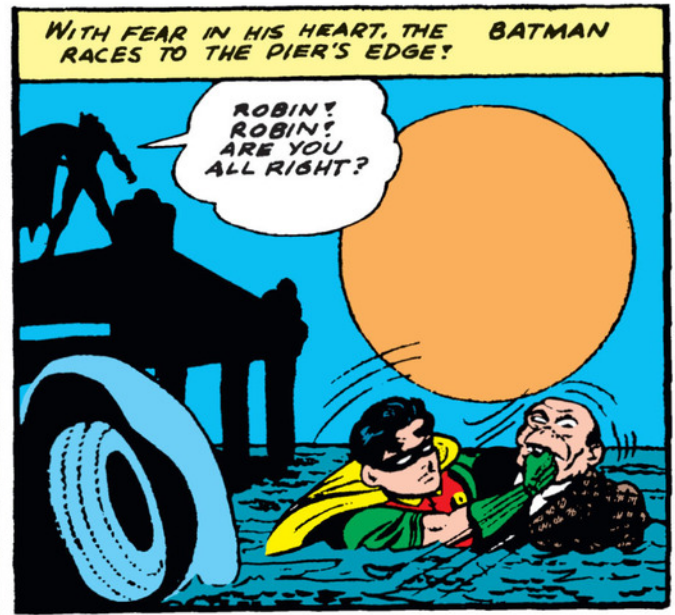
THE BOY WONDER DROPS LIKE A PLUMMET TO THE SPEEDING CAR!

YOU LITTLE BRAT... I SHOULD'VE PLUGGED YOU THE LAST TIME!

YOUR MISTAKE, TOOTHY-- BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW!



AS THE STRUGGLING FIGURES SWAY TO AND FRO, THE CAR CAREENS MADLY--AND PLUNGES OFF THE PIER!

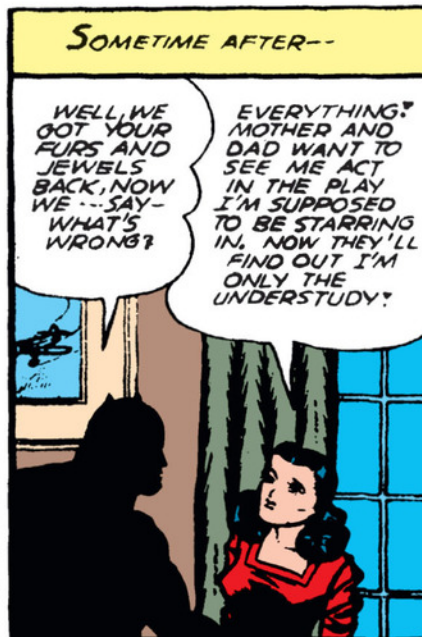


WITH FEAR IN HIS HEART, THE BATMAN RACES TO THE PIER'S EDGE!

ROBIN! ROBIN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



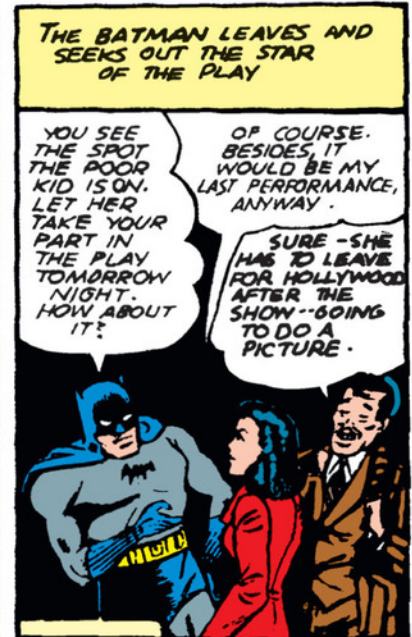
I'M ALL RIGHT-- BUT TOOTHY ISN'T... ONLY I THINK FROM NOW ON WE OUGHT TO CALL HIM TOOTHLESS??



SOMETIME AFTER--

WELL, WE GOT YOUR FURS AND JEWELS BACK, NOW WE-- SAY-- WHAT'S WRONG?

EVERYTHING! MOTHER AND DAD WANT TO SEE ME ACT IN THE PLAY I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STARRING IN. NOW THEY'LL FIND OUT I'M ONLY THE UNDERSTUDY!

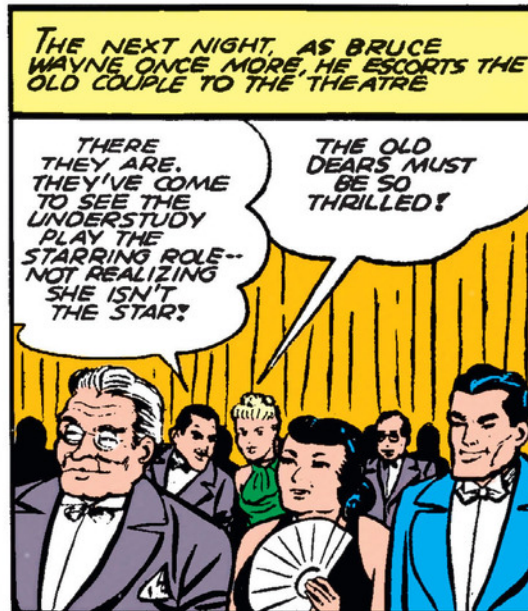
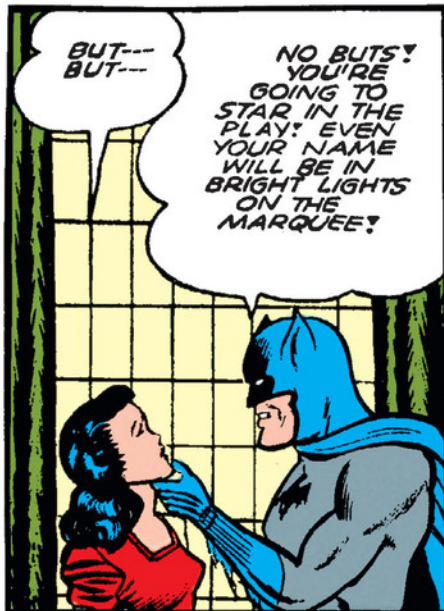


THE BATMAN LEAVES AND SEEKS OUT THE STAR OF THE PLAY

YOU SEE THE SPOT THE POOR KID IS ON. LET HER TAKE YOUR PART IN THE PLAY TOMORROW NIGHT. HOW ABOUT IT?

OF COURSE. BESIDES, IT WOULD BE MY LAST PERFORMANCE, ANYWAY.

SURE--SHE HAS TO LEAVE FOR HOLLYWOOD AFTER THE SHOW--GOING TO DO A PICTURE.



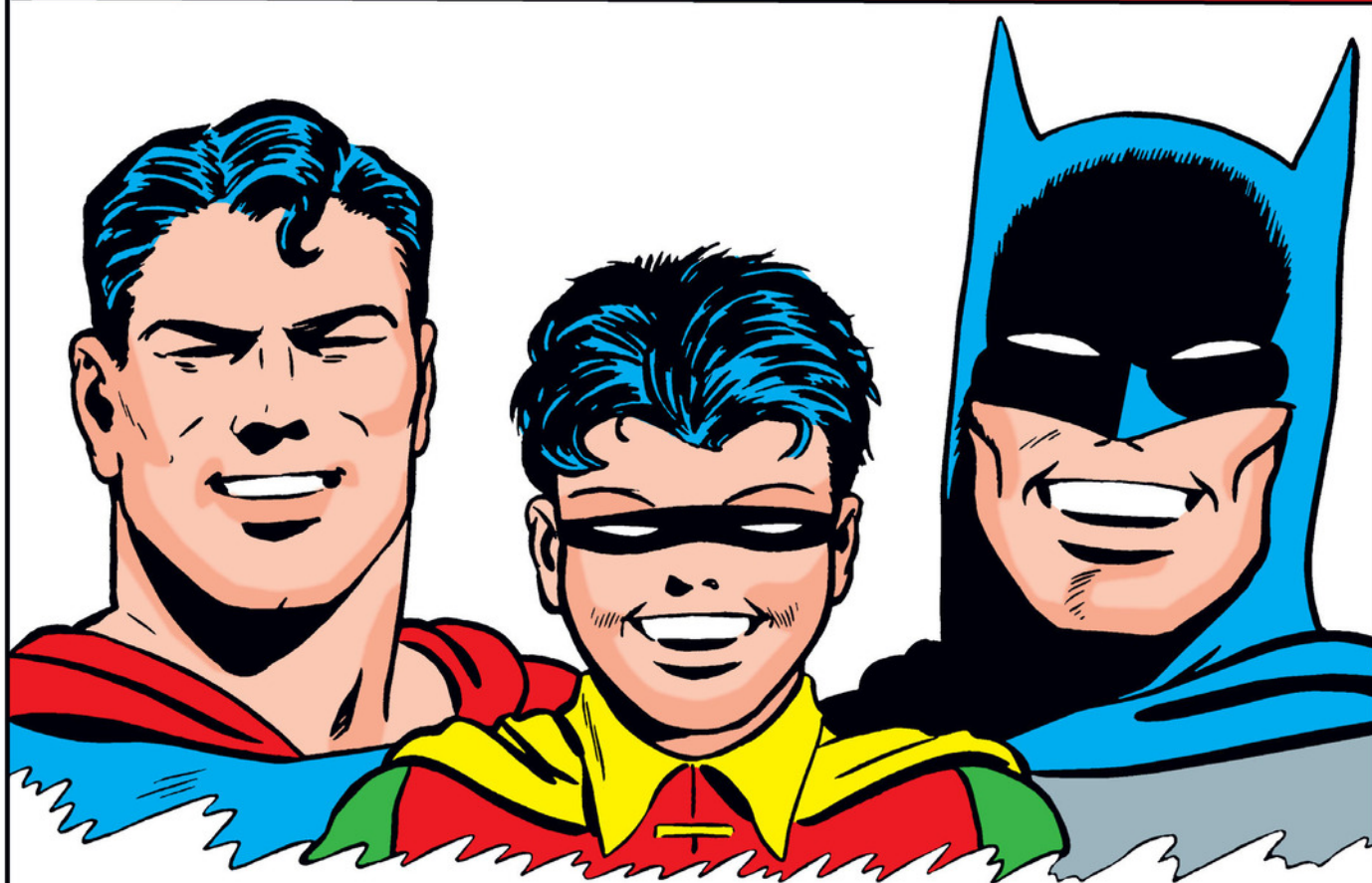
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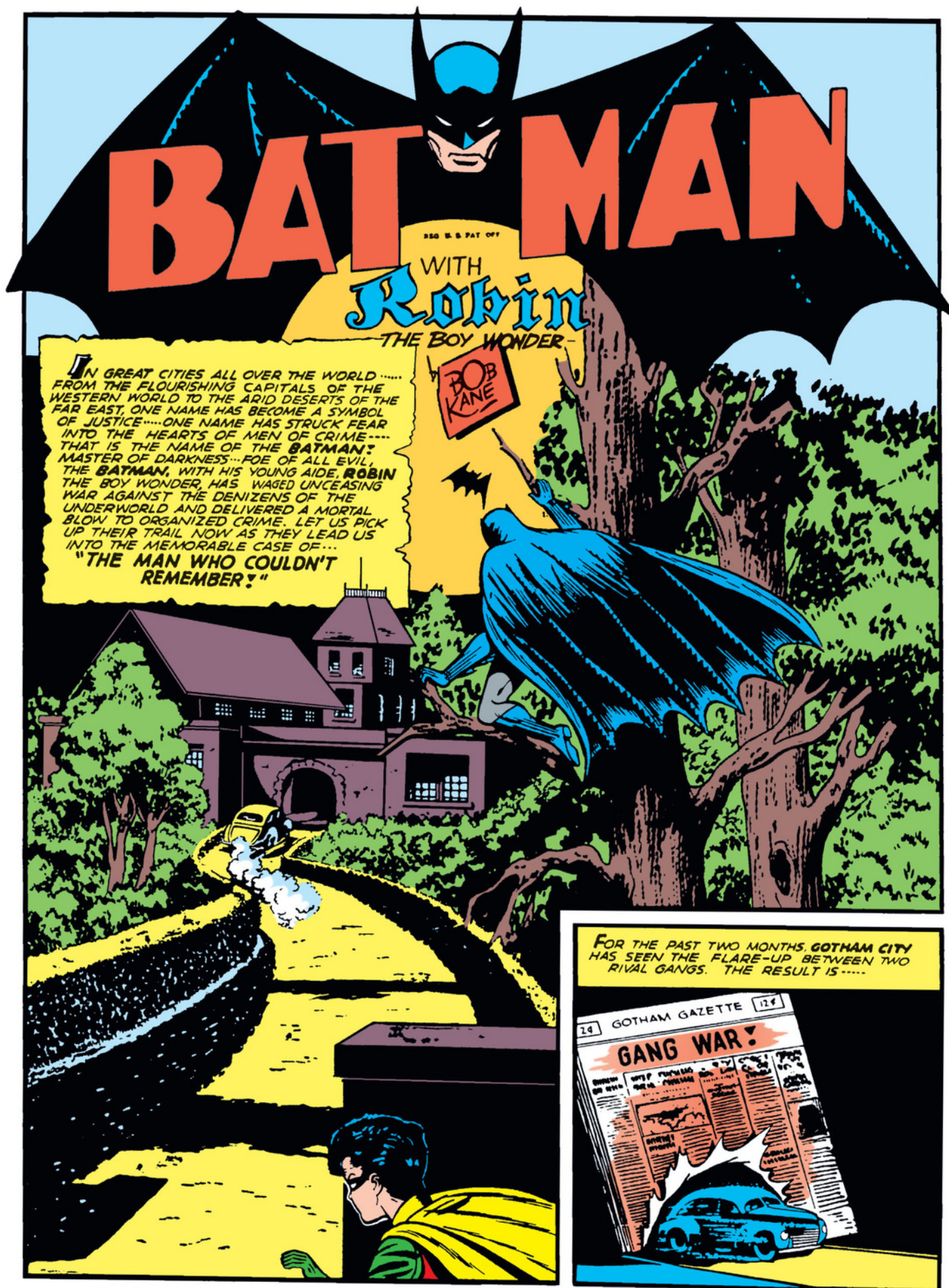
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

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PAGES

FORMERLY WORLD'S BEST COMICS



SUPERMAN • ZATARA
BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE AND BLUE



IN GREAT CITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD..... FROM THE FLOURISHING CAPITALS OF THE WESTERN WORLD TO THE ARID DESERTS OF THE FAR EAST, ONE NAME HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF JUSTICE.....ONE NAME HAS STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN OF CRIME..... THAT IS THE NAME OF THE **BATMAN**! MASTER OF DARKNESS...FOE OF ALL EVIL, THE **BATMAN**, WITH HIS YOUNG AIDE, **ROBIN THE BOY WONDER**, HAS WAGED UNCEASING WAR AGAINST THE DENIZENS OF THE UNDERWORLD AND DELIVERED A MORTAL BLOW TO ORGANIZED CRIME. LET US PICK UP THEIR TRAIL NOW AS THEY LEAD US INTO THE MEMORABLE CASE OF...
"THE MAN WHO COULDN'T REMEMBER!"

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

WITH

Robin

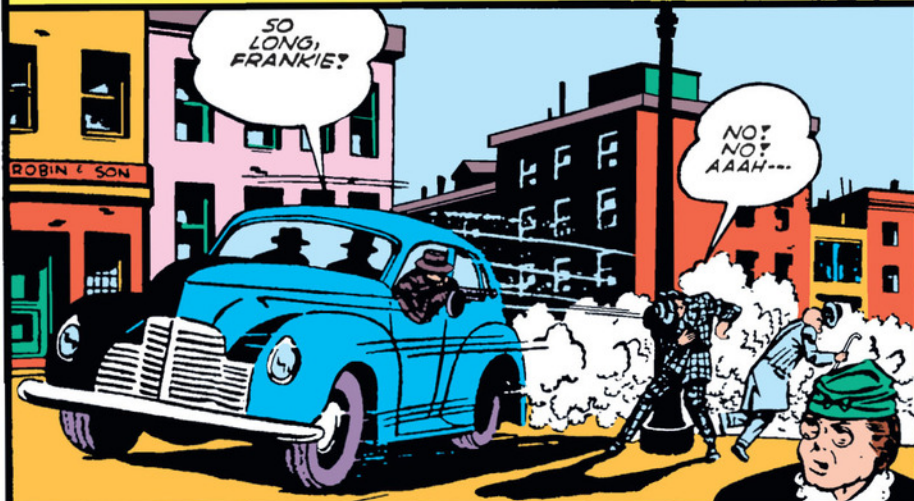
THE BOY WONDER

BOB KANE

FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS, GOTHAM CITY HAS SEEN THE FLARE-UP BETWEEN TWO RIVAL GANGS. THE RESULT IS.....



ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON, AS EAGER SHOPPERS CROWD THE STREETS, A CAR SCREECHES ROUND A CORNER, THE SNOUT OF A MACHINE GUN FLAMING SUDDEN DEATH.



THE CAR WHIPS OUT OF SIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND TWO SPRAWLED FIGURES-- A RIVAL GANGSTER-- AND AN INNOCENT, OLD MAN?



LETTERS FROM INDIGNANT CITIZENS POUR IN TO NEWSPAPER OFFICES. RADIO BROADCASTS ARE MADE. FINALLY, THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF INTERVENES, HE APPOINTS A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO TAKE CHARGE-- A BRAVE, COURAGEOUS MAN NAMED WILLIAM KENDRICK.

I'M GOING AFTER THE RACKETEERS IN THIS TOWN. I DON'T CARE HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE-- I'M GOING AFTER THEM!

WOW? I WONDER WHAT BIG TIM BANNON WILL SAY TO THIS?



AND WHEN INTERVIEWED, BIG TIM BANNON, POLITICAL BOSS OF THE CITY, SAYS---

THIS GUY KENDRICK TALKS BIG. NOW LET'S SEE HIM ACT BIG!



BUT, OF COURSE, WE KNOW THE FORMER D.A. IS AND WAS IN BANNON'S PAY?

AND OUSTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRAVES SAYS---

HE'S GOING TO FIND THAT GETTING RID OF RACKETEERS IN THIS TOWN ISN'T SO EASY. I OUGHT TO KNOW!



--AND SAYS MITCH MASON, OF THE WEST SIDE MOBSTERS--

WHO--KENDRICK? NAW--WE AIN'T WORRYIN' ABOUT HIM. HE'S THE GUY THAT SHOULD WORRY!

---AND TRIG COOLER, HEAD OF THE RIVAL EAST SIDE MOB--



IN RETALIATION TO THESE THREATS, A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IS FORMED, WITH WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN AMBROSE TAYLOR AT ITS HEAD.

WE CITIZENS ARE BEHIND KENDRICK. WE INTEND TO GIVE HIM EVERY SUPPORT, IN SPITE OF PRESSURE BY CERTAIN POLITICAL GROUPS?

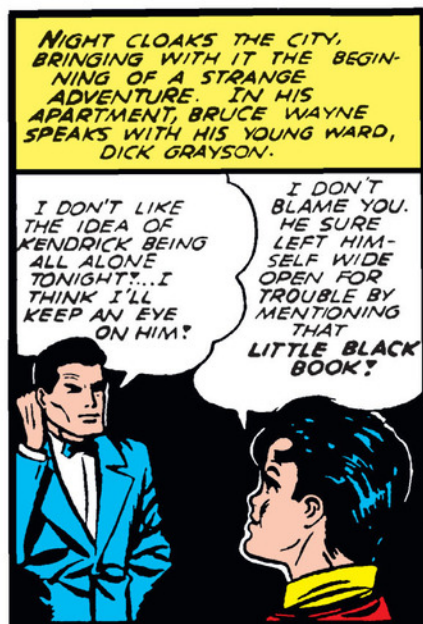
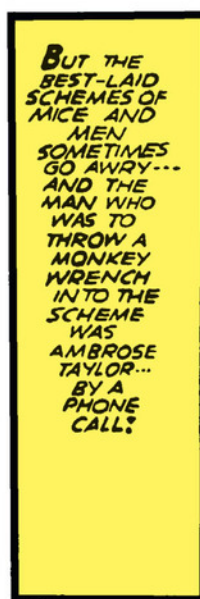
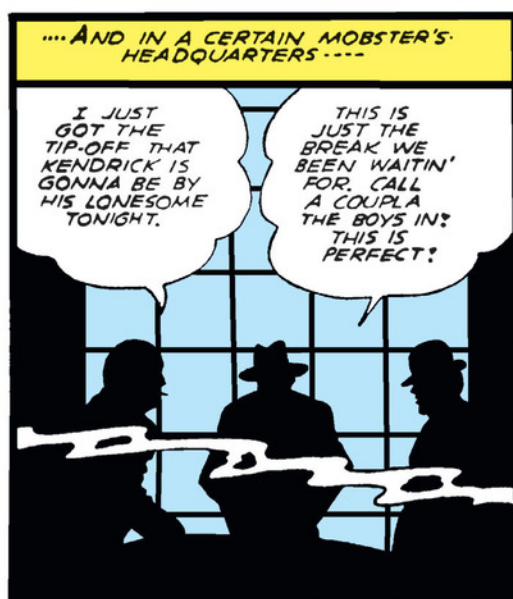
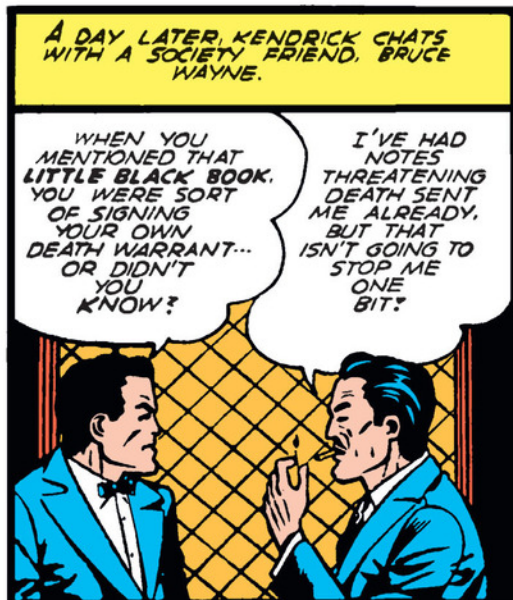


KENDRICK GOES TO WORK WITH A VENGEANCE. INSIDE A WEEK, MOST OF THE MINOR RACKETEERS ARE IMPRISONED.

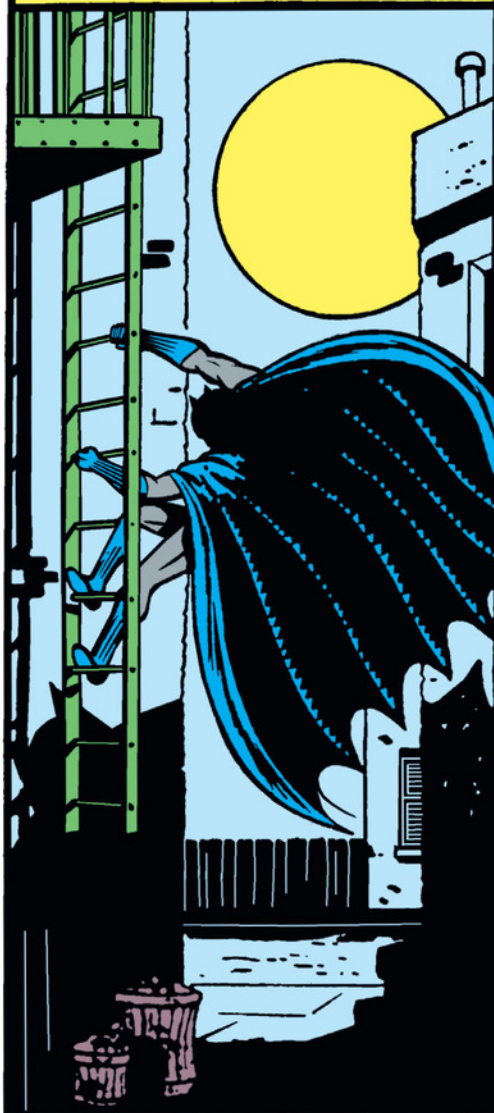
---AND NOW I'M AFTER THE BIG-SHOT RACKETEERS. I KNOW THEM AND THEIR CONNECTIONS-- AND HAVE EVERY FACT WRITTEN DOWN IN WHAT I CALL MY "LITTLE BLACK BOOK?"



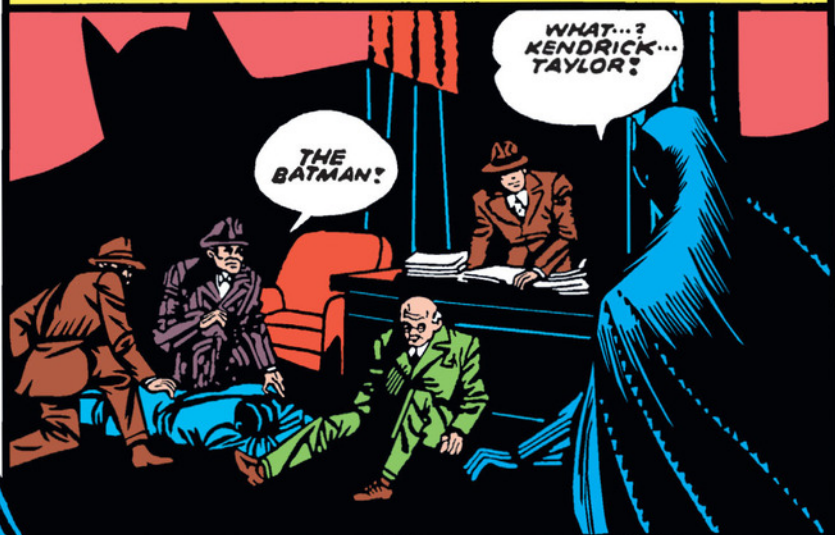
NEWS OF THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK TRAVELS THROUGH THE TOWN LIKE WILDFIRE---



NOISELESSLY AS A JUNGLE CAT, HE MOVES UP THE FIRE ESCAPE ---



---AND BURSTS IN KENDRICK'S ROOM UPON A HORRIBLE SCENE?



WHAT...? KENDRICK... TAYLOR?

THE BATMAN?

THE BATMAN BECOMES A THUNDERBOLT OF FURY???

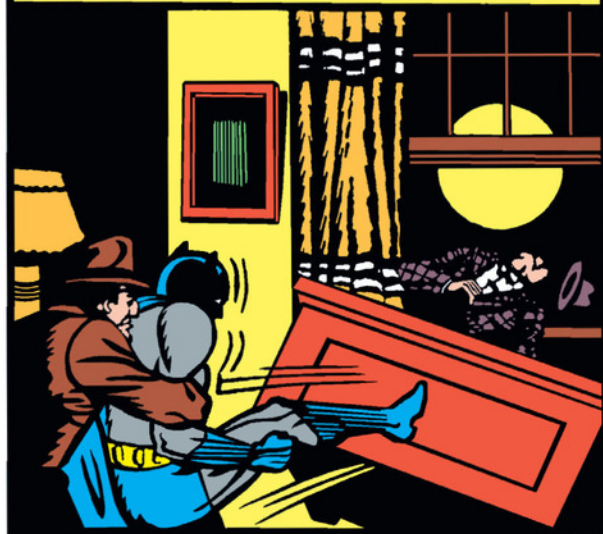


YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS?



THAT'S IT! HOLD HIM SO I CAN PLUG HIM!

QUICKER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE BATMAN'S FOOT LASHES OUT AT THE DESK---SPILLING THE THUG?



BUT THAT MOMENT GIVES HIS OPPONENT THE ADVANTAGE. DARKNESS CLOSES IN ON THE BATMAN?



WHEN THE BATMAN COMES TO, HE FINDS THE GUNMEN ARE--



GONE? WOW... MY HEAD!-- BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT TAYLOR AND KENDRICK?



HE'S ALIVE
JUST HAD HIS
SCALP CREASED
BY A BULLET!
NOW FOR
KENDRICK!



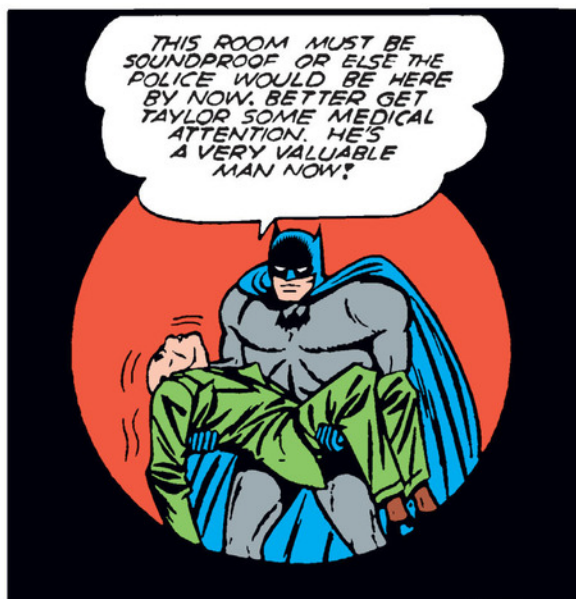
BATMAN--
HOME--
BLACK BOOK--
DEVIL'S
DUNGEON--
AAAAH--



THE BLACK BOOK--
HOME-- DEVIL'S
DUNGEON? WHERE
CAN THAT BE?
I---A FACE
AT THE WINDOW!



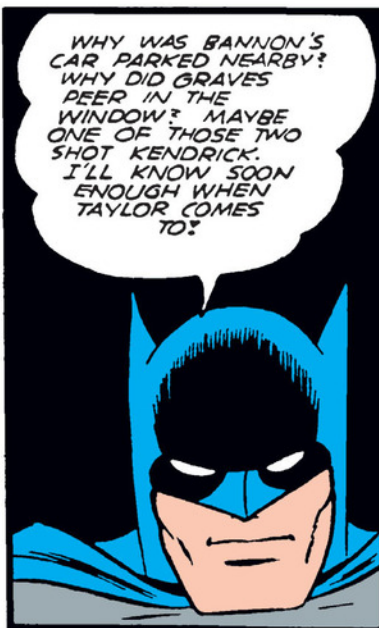
I KNOW THAT
FACE. THAT WAS
GRAVES--
NOW WHAT
WAS HE DOING
HERE?
MAMA?



THIS ROOM MUST BE
SOUNDPROOF OR ELSE THE
POLICE WOULD BE HERE
BY NOW. BETTER GET
TAYLOR SOME MEDICAL
ATTENTION. HE'S
A VERY VALUABLE
MAN NOW!



YES, SIR. TAYLOR IS
THE ONLY WITNESS TO
KENDRICK'S MURDER.
HE CAN PICK OUT
THE MAN WHO SHOT
HIM--AND MAYBE
IT WASN'T THOSE
THUGS, EITHER?



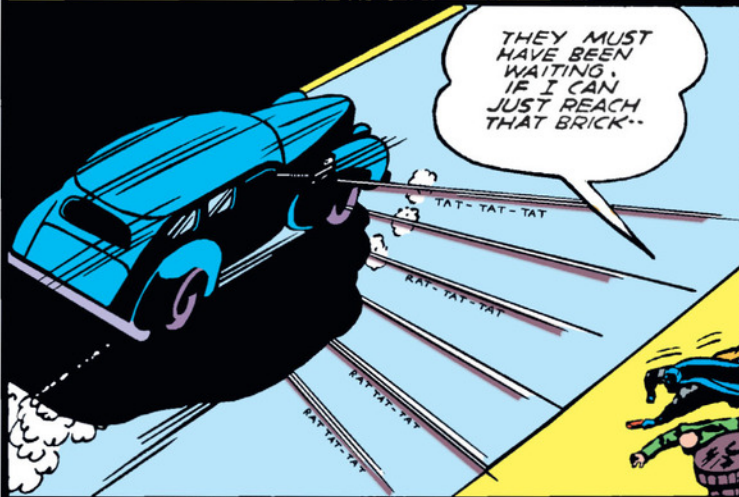
WHY WAS BANNON'S
CAR PARKED NEARBY?
WHY DID GRAVES
PEER IN THE
WINDOW? MAYBE
ONE OF THOSE TWO
SHOT KENDRICK.
I'LL KNOW SOON
ENOUGH WHEN
TAYLOR COMES
TO?



AS THE BATMAN REACHES
THE STREET WITH HIS PRECIOUS
BURDEN, BULLETS WHINE THICKLY
ABOUT HIM, SPATTERING THE
WALL BEHIND

OH-OH:
TROUBLE?

IN ONE LIGHTNING MOVE, THE BATMAN FLATTENS HIMSELF AND TAYLOR AGAINST THE GROUND --- AND NONE TOO SOON.

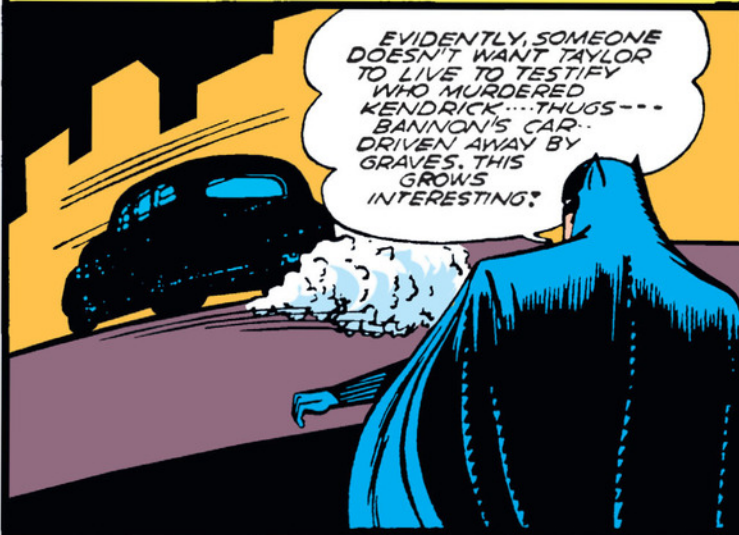


THEY MUST HAVE BEEN WAITING. IF I CAN JUST REACH THAT BRICK--

THE BATMAN HURLS THE BRICK INTO THE FACE OF THE MACHINE-GUNNER---



WITH A CLASH OF GEARS, THE CAR LEAPS AWAY.



EVIDENTLY, SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT TAYLOR TO LIVE TO TESTIFY WHO MURDERED KENDRICK... THUGS--- BANNON'S CAR.. DRIVEN AWAY BY GRAVES. THIS GROWS INTERESTING?

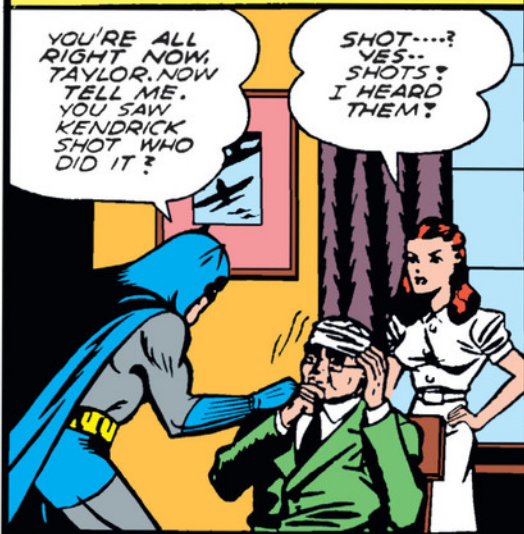
MINUTES LATER--THE APARTMENT OF LINDA PAGE, A SOCIETY GIRL WHO HAS BECOME A NURSE IN ORDER TO MAKE SOMETHING OF HERSELF.



BATMAN? WHAT... WHO...?

THIS MAN'S BEEN HURT? HE NEEDS ATTENTION QUICKLY?

UNDER LINDA'S EXPERT NURSING, TAYLOR SOON REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS--



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, TAYLOR. NOW TELL ME. YOU SAW KENDRICK SHOT. WHO DID IT?

SHOT...? YES-- SHOTS? I HEARD THEM?

YES--I KNOW. BUT YOU KNOW WHO SHOT KENDRICK AND YOURSELF? WHO WAS IT?

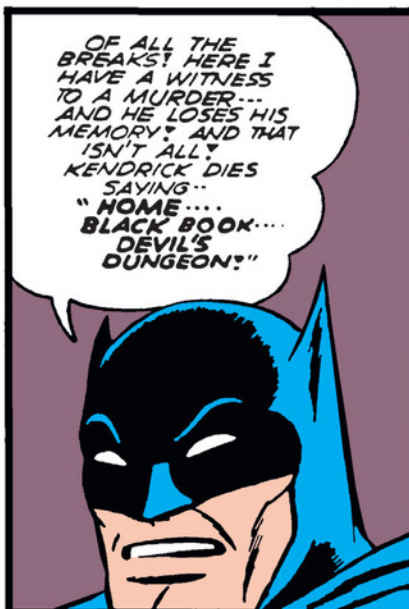
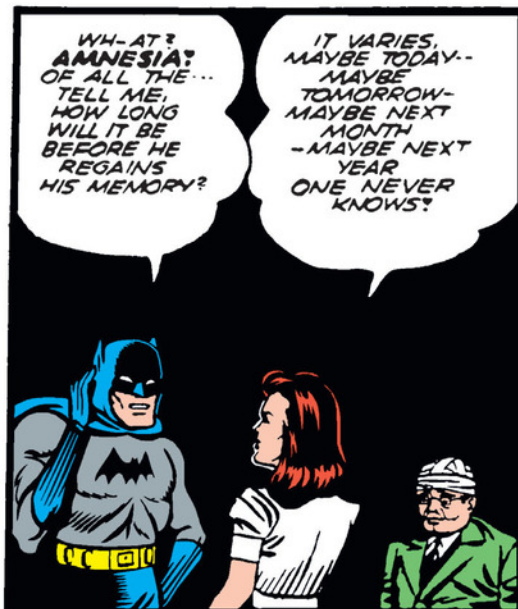


I-I DON'T REMEMBER-- I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?

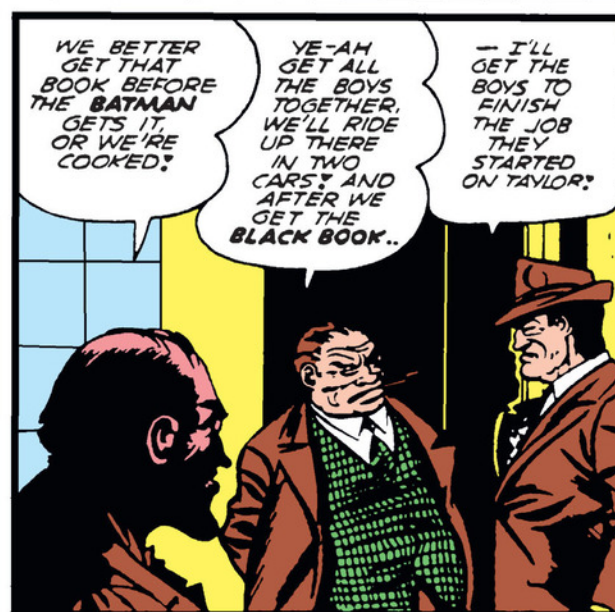
WHAT? BUT...

BATMAN, I'VE SEEN THIS TYPE OF CASE BEFORE. THIS MAN HAS AMNESIA!! THE BULLET THAT HIT THE TOP OF HIS HEAD HAS CAUSED HIM TO TEMPORARILY LOSE HIS MEMORY?

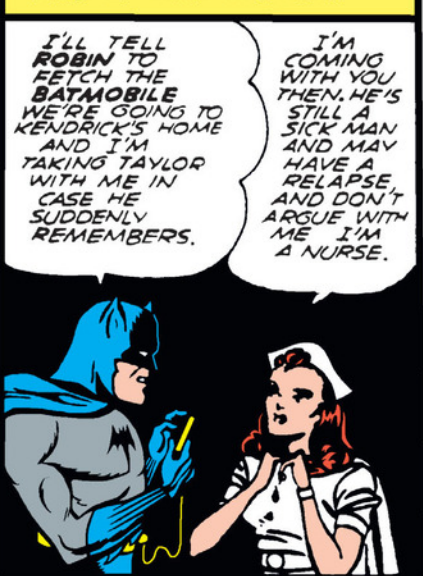




BUT THE BATMAN IS WRONG, FOR GRAVES LIKE ALL RATS, HAS SHARP EARS!



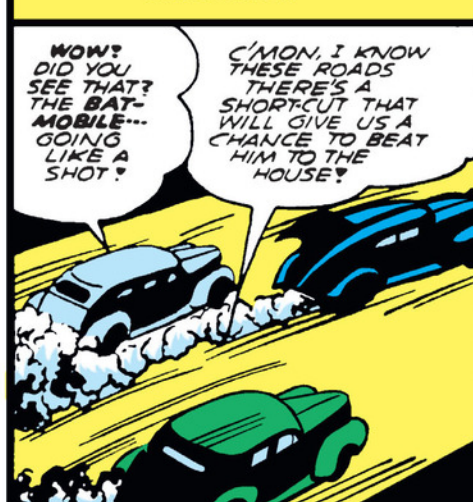
AND AT THAT MOMENT--

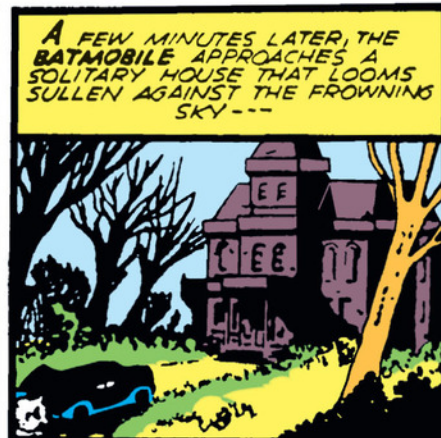
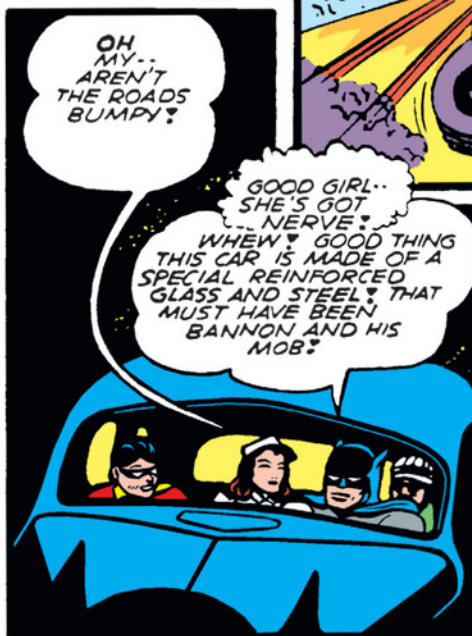
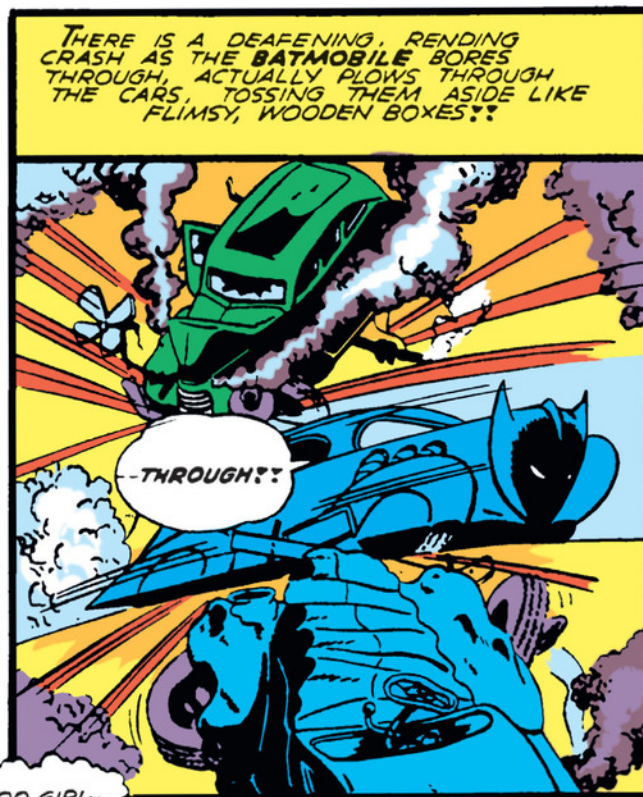
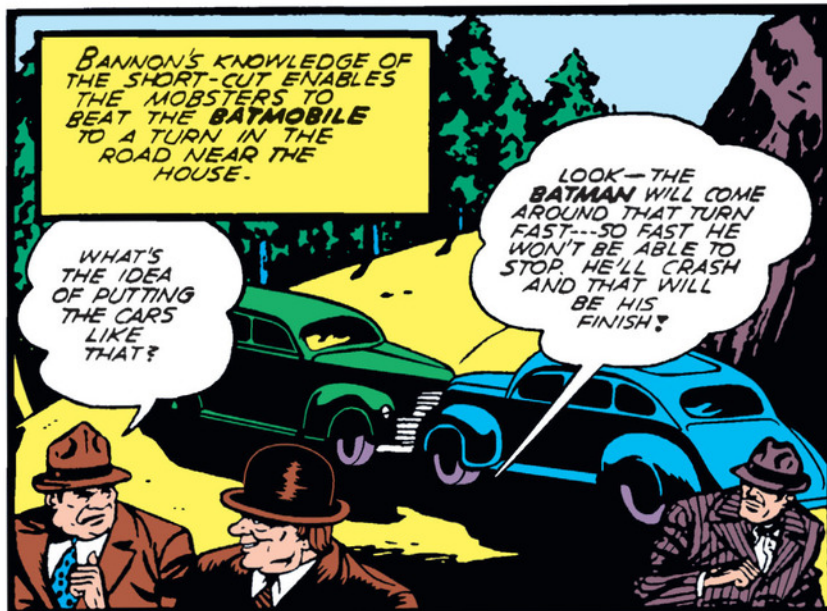


A SHORT TIME LATER, A CAR STREAKS LIKE A BULLET UP THE ROAD LEADING TO THE SUBURBS IT IS THE BATMOBILE?



IT WHIZZES PAST TWO SLOWER MOVING CARS TRAVELING THE SAME ROAD ---- THE CARS CONTAINING BANNON AND THE MOBSTERS?

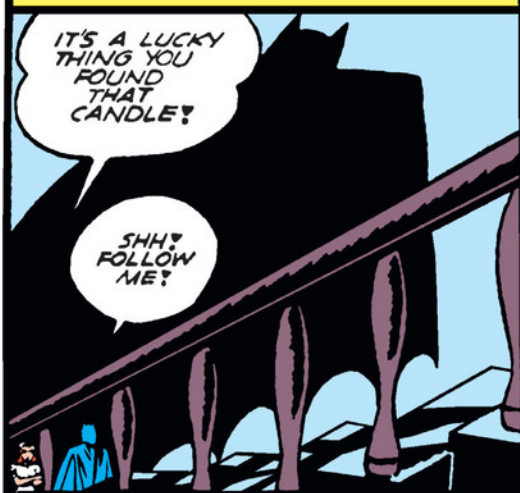




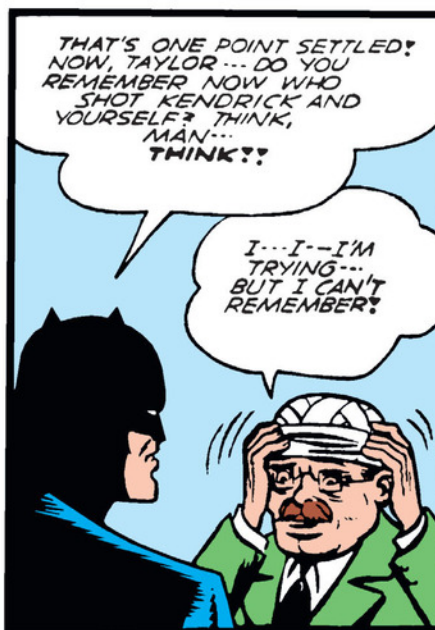
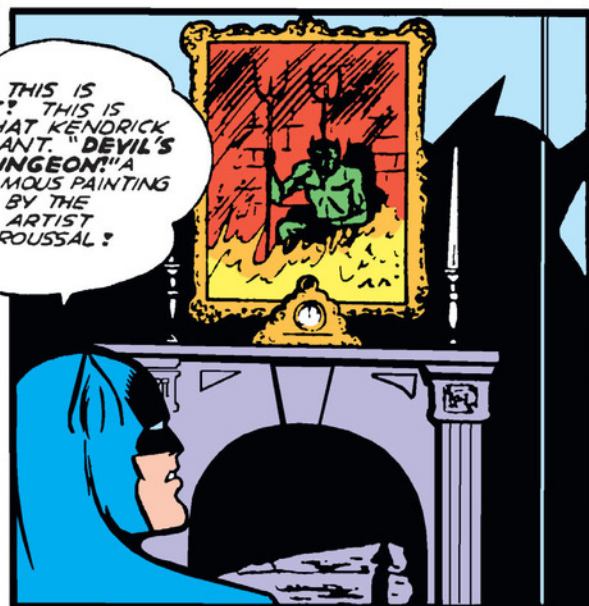
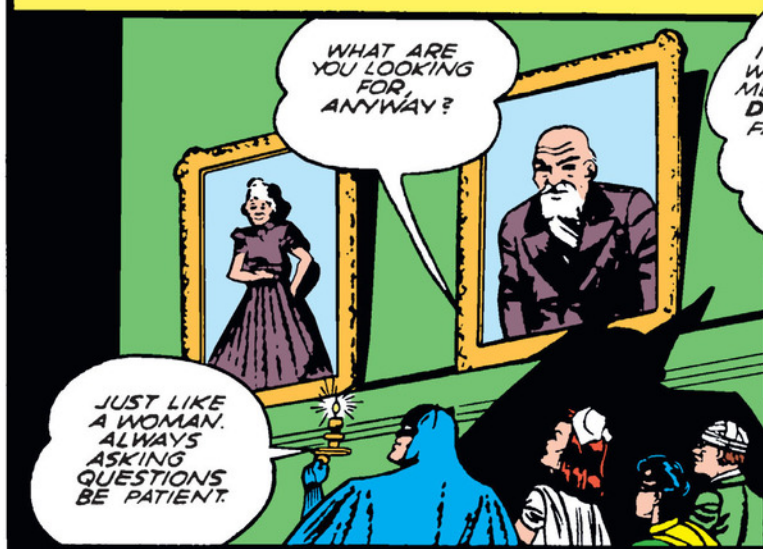
THE BATMAN FORCES HIS ENTRY WITH A PASS-KEY. THE DOOR CREAKS SLOWLY INWARD AND THE LARGE, EMPTY HOUSE STRETCHES BEFORE THEM LIKE THE YAWNING JAWS OF A COLOSSAL MONSTER?

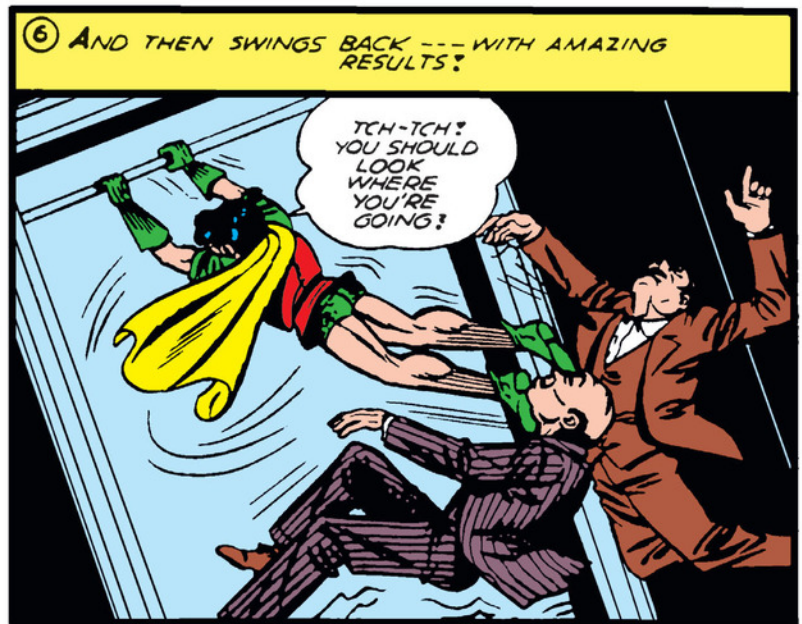
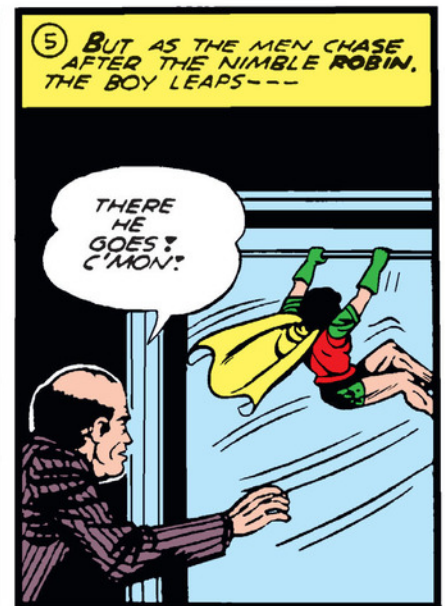
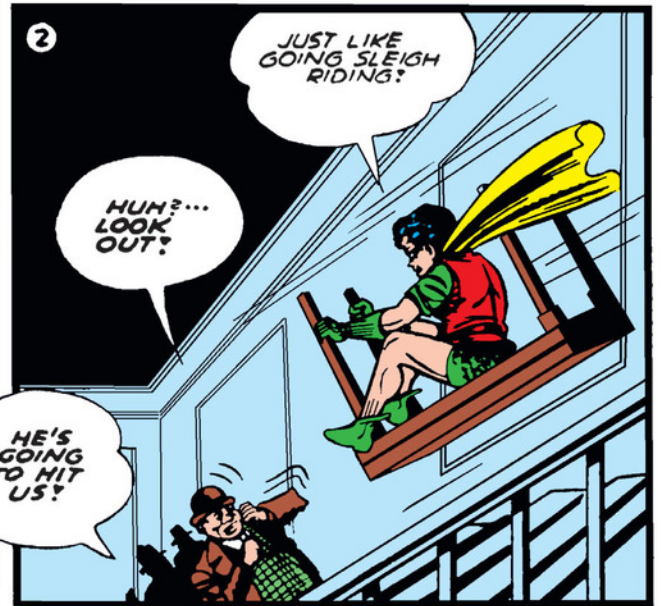


TREADING SOFTLY, AS IF NOT TO AWAKEN THE GHOSTS OF THOSE LONG DEAD, THE GROUP MOUNTS THE STAIRCASE.

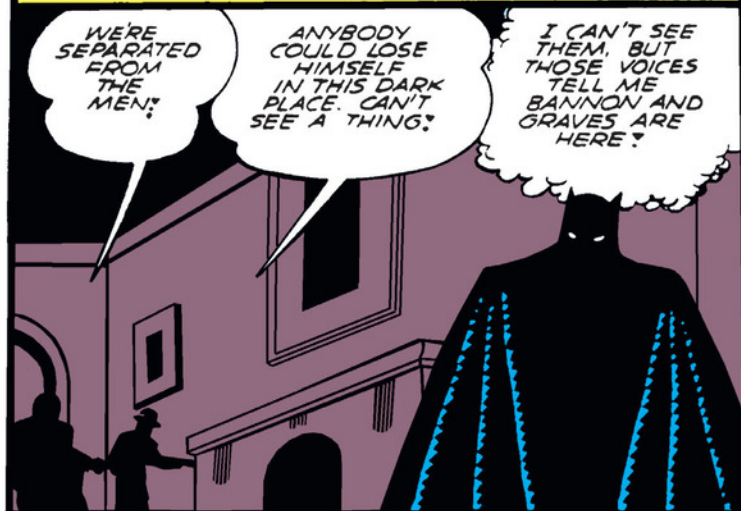


LIKE PHANTOMS, THEY FLIT THROUGH THE DISMAL ROOMS.





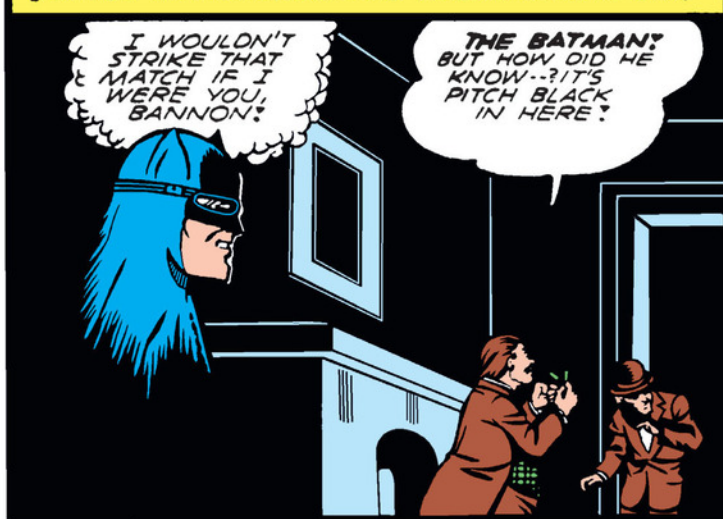
MEANWHILE, BANNON AND GRAVES LOSE THEIR WAY IN THE CLOSE-PRESSING DARKNESS.



FROM A POUCH, ESPECIALLY BUILT IN HIS BELT, THE BATMAN TAKES A QUEER-LOOKING PAIR OF GLASSES



THOUGH HE HIMSELF CANNOT BE SEEN, WITH THESE ESPECIALLY PREPARED GLASSES, THE BATMAN CAN SEE IN THE DARK---AS WOULD A REAL BAT?



THE BATMAN, THROUGH A THOROUGH STUDY OF VENTRILOQUISM, CAN THROW HIS VOICE IN ANY DIRECTION HE PLEASES.



THE MEN SHUDDER IN TERROR AT THE "SUPERNATURAL" POWER OF THE BATMAN!



SUDDENLY, A SCREAM RINGS THROUGH THE HOUSE. THE FEW REMAINING THUGS HAVE FOUND LINDA AND TAYLOR?

LOOK! A DAME... AND TAYLOR?

WELL, BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU?

DIS DAME IS A WILD CAT?

A GUN BUTT CRASHES DOWN ON TAYLOR'S HEAD?

LET GO OF ME, YOU BEASTS?

THIS FOR YOU, CHUM?

ABRUPTLY, TWO CLOAKED FIGURES LUNGE FORWARD, FISTS FLAILING?

THERE'S NOTHING I ENJOY MORE THAN SAILING INTO YOUR KIND?

THAT JUST ABOUT COVERS MY THOUGHTS?

IN A FEW, FLYING MOMENTS, THE THUGS HAVE BEEN FLATTENED AND TRUSSSED UP WITH THE OTHERS?

HE'S COMING ROUND NOW.

I...I... WAIT.. IT'S COMING BACK TO ME? I REMEMBER NOW?

WHA...? THE BLOW ON THE HEAD DID IT?

I REMEMBER? I KILLED KENDRICK? THEN TRIG COOLER'S BOYS CAME IN AND SHOT ME?

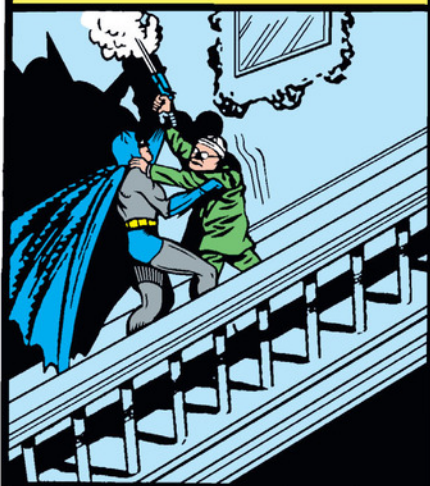
SUDDENLY, TAYLOR CUTS OFF HIS WORDS AS HE REALIZES WHAT HE HAS SAID IN HIS EXCITEMENT HIS HAND FLASHES TO A POCKET...

YES... I KILLED HIM... WITH THIS VERY GUN? A FAT LOT OF GOOD IT WILL DO YOU TO KNOW?

THE AMAZING CONFESSION HAS SO ASTOUNDED THE BATMAN THAT FOR ONCE HE HAS BEEN CAUGHT FLATFOOTED ...

....BUT NOT FOR LONG? A SHOT BUZZES OVER HIS HEAD AS HE LEAPS?

THE TWO LOCK GRIPS?
BACK AND FORTH THEY SWAY
ONTO THE HALL BALCONY IN
A WILD DERVISH OF DEATH?



WITH A TITANIC
EFFORT, THE BATMAN
TEARS A HAND FREE,
WINDS IT INTO A FIST...
AND CRASHES IT AGAINST
TAYLOR'S CHIN?



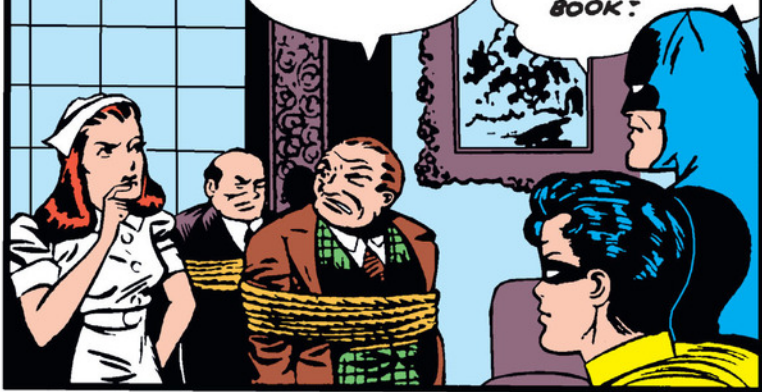
A SUDDEN SPLINTERING OF WOOD,
AND TAYLOR PLUNGES THROUGH
THE BALCONY RAILING?



TAYLOR---
THE MURDERER?
IT DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE?

SURE IT
DOES. TAYLOR
WAS THE
REAL LEADER
OF THE WEST
SIDE MOBSTERS?
MITCH MASON
WAS ONLY HIS
LIEUTENANT?

THEN HE
SHOT
KENDRICK
BECAUSE
HE THOUGHT
HE KNEW---
AND HAD THE
INFORMATION
IN THE LITTLE
BLACK
BOOK?



WHEN MY
BOYS WENT
INTO THE ROOM
TO FORCE
KENDRICK TO
GIVE UP THE
BLACK BOOK,
THEY SAW
THAT TAYLOR
SHOT HIM.
THEY TRIED
TO GET
TAYLOR
'CAUSE HE WAS
FROM THE
RIVAL MOB.

HMM? YOU
WERE WORKING
WITH BANNON--
GIVING HIM A
CUT FOR
POLITICAL
PROTECTION?
BUT WHY
DIDN'T YOU
JUST TELL
THE POLICE
TAYLOR WAS
THE MURDERER?
YOU'D HAVE
RID YOURSELF
OF HIM THAT
WAY.



IF WE
SQUEALED
ON TAYLOR,
TAYLOR
WOULD TALK
HE KNOWS
THINGS
ABOUT A
LOT OF
US THAT
MIGHT GET
US IN
PRISON
CELLS,
TOO?

A CASE OF
SELF-
PROTECTION
WELL, NOW
ALL THAT'S
LEFT TO
DO IS GIVE
THE BLACK
BOOK
TO THE
POLICE
AND LET
THEM TAKE
OVER.



LATER--- AFTER THEY HAVE
INFORMED THE POLICE, THE TRIO
ARE HOMEWARD BOUND---

WHO
WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
TAYLOR
WAS THE
MURDERER?

I'M
IMAGINE,
WE HAD
THE
MURDERER
IN OUR
HANDS
ALL THE
TIME AND
DIDN'T
KNOW
IT?

ROBIN,
IF EVER
YOU FEEL
I'M
GETTING
TOO
COCKSURE
OF MY-
SELF, I'D
APPRECIATE
YOUR
MENTIONING
THIS CASE
TO ME. THAT'LL
BRING ME DOWN
TO EARTH?





THE BATMAN

No. 54



IND

Detective COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

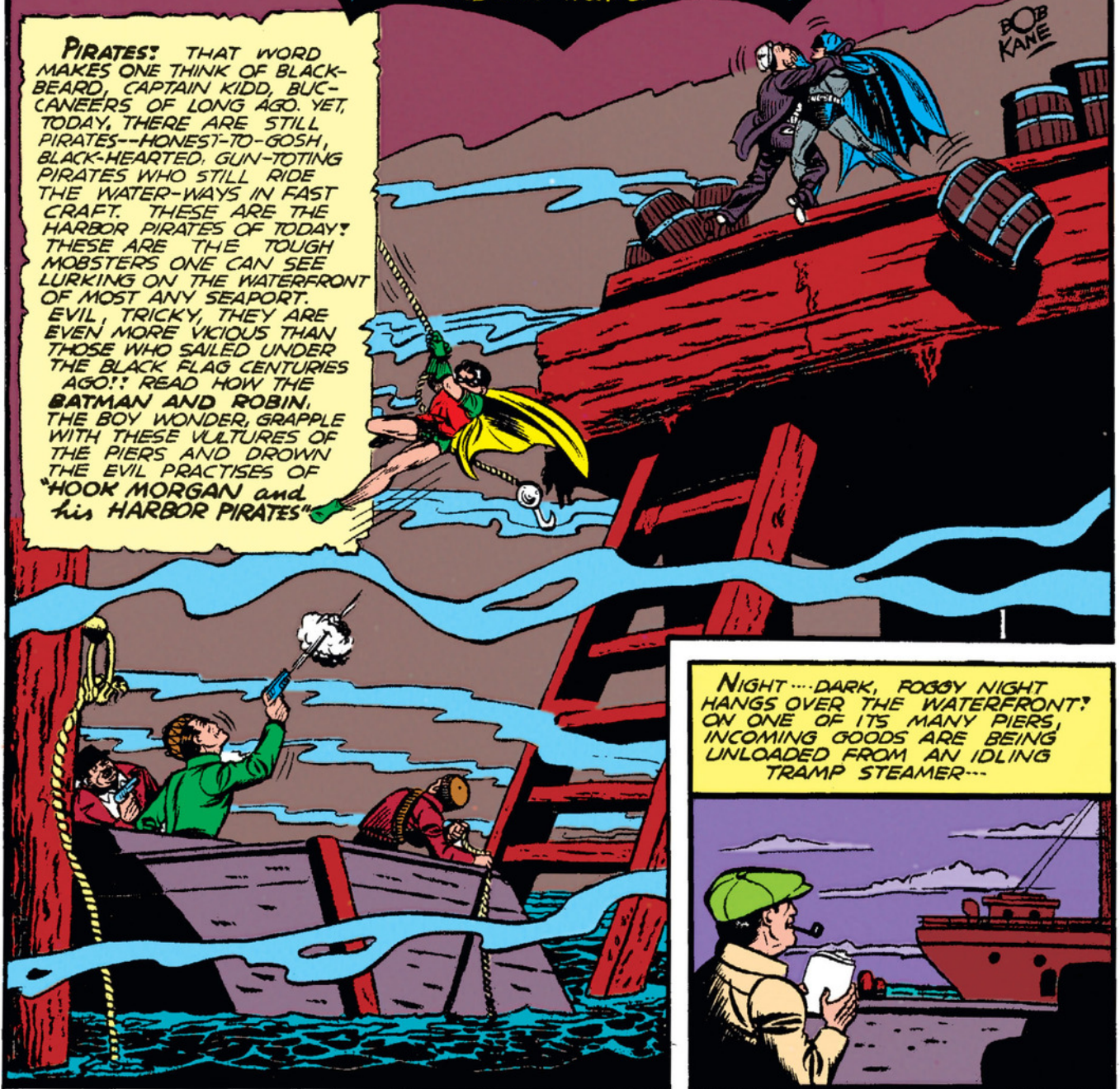


BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

PIRATES! THAT WORD MAKES ONE THINK OF BLACK-BEARD, CAPTAIN KIDD, BUC-CANEERS OF LONG AGO. YET, TODAY, THERE ARE STILL PIRATES--HONEST-TO-GOSH, BLACK-HEARTED, GUN-TOTING PIRATES WHO STILL RIDE THE WATER-WAYS IN FAST CRAFT. THESE ARE THE HARBOR PIRATES OF TODAY! THESE ARE THE TOUGH MOBSTERS ONE CAN SEE LURKING ON THE WATERFRONT OF MOST ANY SEAPORT. EVIL, TRICKY, THEY ARE EVEN MORE VICIOUS THAN THOSE WHO SAILED UNDER THE BLACK FLAG CENTURIES AGO! READ HOW THE **BATMAN AND ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, GRAPPLE WITH THESE VULTURES OF THE PIERS AND DROWN THE EVIL PRACTISES OF "HOOK MORGAN and his HARBOR PIRATES!"

BOB KANE



NIGHT...DARK, FOBBY NIGHT HANGS OVER THE WATERFRONT! ON ONE OF ITS MANY PIERS, INCOMING GOODS ARE BEING UNLOADED FROM AN IDLING TRAMP STEAMER...



AFTER THE UNLOADING--

ALL RIGHT, BOYS! GET THAT STUFF INTO THE WAREHOUSE! LET'S GO!

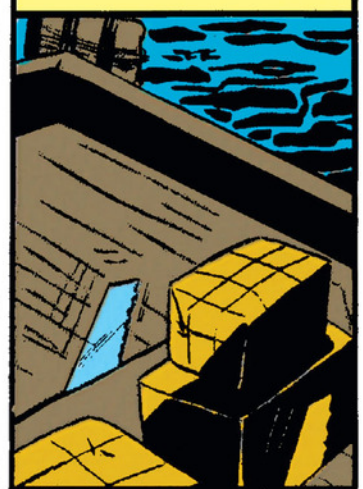


PART OF THE CARGO LIES ON THE PIER APPARENTLY SAFE-- BUT DANGER LURKS UNDER THE PIER ITSELF! IN THE BLACK SHADOWS BELOW, A DARK CRAFT MOVES SILENTLY--

OKAY! GET THOSE SAWS GOING! THEY'LL BE BACK IN A FEW MOMENTS!



LIKE EVIL TERMITES, THE MEN BORE THROUGH THE WOODEN PIER--



MOMENTS LATER--

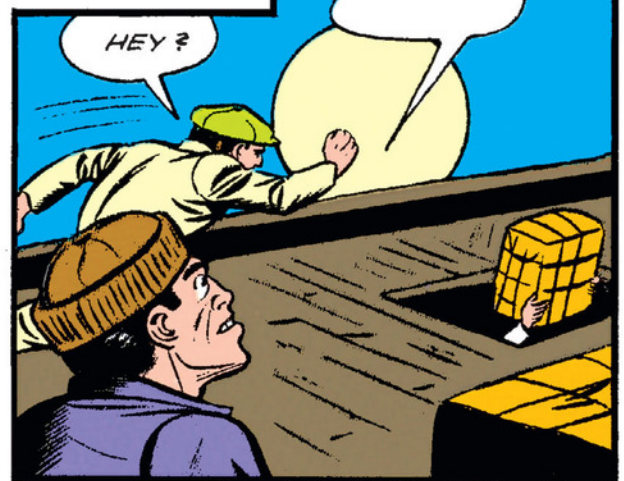
UGH! THIS STUFF IS HEAVY! MUST BE SILK INSIDE!

OKAY! EASY NOW! THAT'S IT!



HEY?

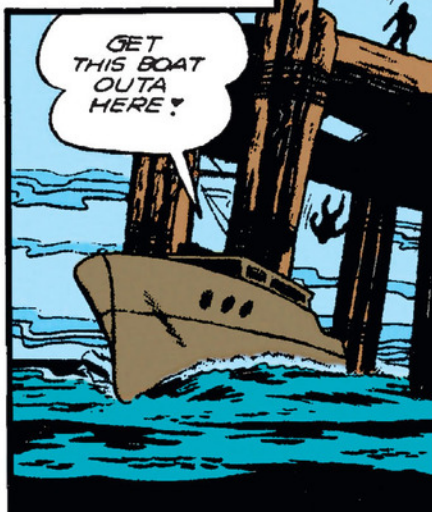
SOMEBODY'S STEALIN' THE BALES!



SUDDENLY, A DAZZLING WHITE SHAFT OF LIGHT BATHES THE FUGITIVE LAUNCH!



GET THIS BOAT OUTA HERE!



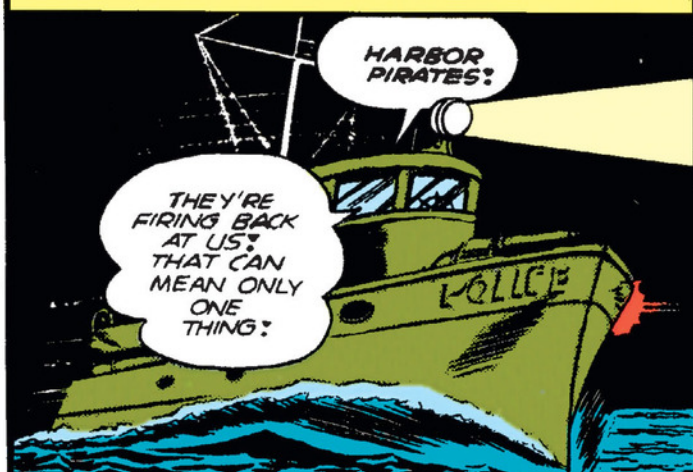
POLICE BOAT! THE COPS MUSTA HEARD THAT SHOT!



YOU-- OH-H-



AS THE WHINING SNARL OF THE POLICE SIREN BREAKS OUT FROM THE CRAFT, AN ANSWER COMES INSTANTLY - RED FLAMES STAB THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT?



THE POLICE BOAT CLEAVES THROUGH THE SWIRLING WATERS, RAPIDLY CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO BOATS



GET THAT LIGHT, SOMEBODY! THAT SEARCH-LIGHT! CAN'T SEE!



A HAIL OF LEAD SPRAYS THE POLICE SEARCHLIGHT?



WHILE THE POLICE REPLACE THE LIGHT WITH A NEW BULB, THE PIRATE LAUNCH ROARS AWAY!



THE POLICE DOGGEDLY PURSUE THE SPEEDING PIRATE LAUNCH--BUT WHEN THE NEW SEARCHLIGHT COVERS THE WATERS WITH DAYLIGHT BRILLIANCE, THE POLICE FIND--

IT'S GONE! THE PIRATE BOAT IS GONE!



THE DAZZLING WHITE EYE OF THE SEARCHLIGHT LOOKS DOWN ON EMPTY WATERS!!

WE WERE RIGHT BEHIND IT! WHERE COULD IT HAVE GONE?

BLAMED IF I KNOW! ALL I KNOW IS IT'S GONE! THAT BOAT SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED AS IF IT WERE PLUCKED OUT OF THE WATERS BY A GIANT HAND!



THE NEXT DAY--THE HOME OF
BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON.

THIS HARBOR
PIRATE STUFF IS
GETTING TO BE
SERIOUS BUSINESS.
HEY--CUT IT OUT!
YOU WEREN'T
EVEN
LISTENING?

RIGHT--MY
TOUSLE-HEADED
FRIEND! TODAY I
LISTEN ONLY TO
THE LOVELY
VOICE OF BEAUTIFUL
LINDA PAGE! SEE
YOU IN THE
FUNNY PAPERS,
KID?

GREETINGS,
FAIR
LADY?

FLOWERS?
THANK YOU,
KIND SIR!
JUST A SEC
AND I'LL BE
WITH YOU!
YOU DON'T
KNOW IT YET, BUT
WE'RE GOING
SHOPPING?

THEY ENTER A
STORE NEARBY--

HELLO,
MR. SALE?
DID YOU
GET THAT
IMPORTED
CLOTH
FOR
ME YET?

YOU MEAN,
THAT RARE
AND EXPENSIVE
CLOTH FROM
THAT FOREIGN
COUNTRY, DON'T
YOU? I'M
SORRY--BUT IT
WAS STOLEN
FROM THE
PIER LAST
NIGHT?

STOLEN? THIS
CLOTH YOU IMPORTED
WAS STOLEN?
BY WHOM?

THOSE HARBOR
PIRATES...LAST
NIGHT! IMAGINE:
A WHOLE BALE OF
THIS CLOTH! AND IT
WAS THE ONLY BALE
OF THIS CLOTH TO
BE IMPORTED INTO
THE COUNTRY. IT
WAS VERY
EXCLUSIVE?

LATER...AS THEY WALK DOWN THE
SHOPPING NEIGHBORHOOD, SOME STREETS BELOW.

STEALING AN
EXCLUSIVE CLOTH
LIKE THAT? IF
I WERE A MAN
I'D DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THOSE
PIRATES?

THE POLICE
ARE DOING THE
BEST THEY CAN!
BUT MAYBE THEY
COULD USE
SOME HELP!

I GUESS THE
BATMAN COULD
HELP THEM GET--
WHY...WHAT'S THE
MATTER, BRUCE?
YOU LOOK AS
IF YOU WERE
SEEING A
GHOST?

OH...OH--
NOTHING--
NOTHING
AT ALL?

I AM SEEING
A GHOST--
THE GHOST
OF THAT
EXCLUSIVE
CLOTH?

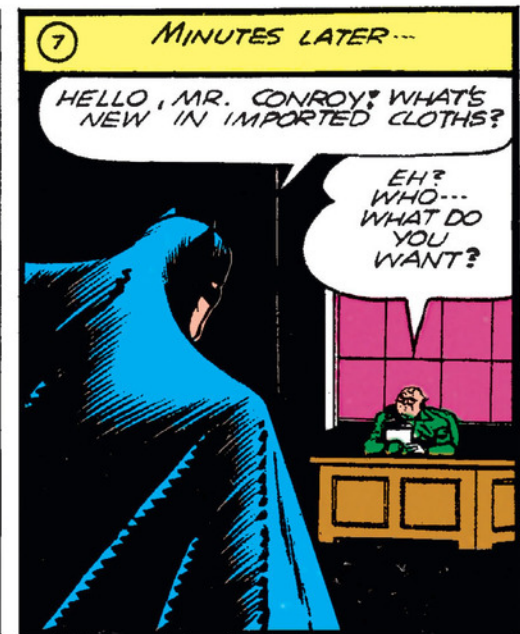
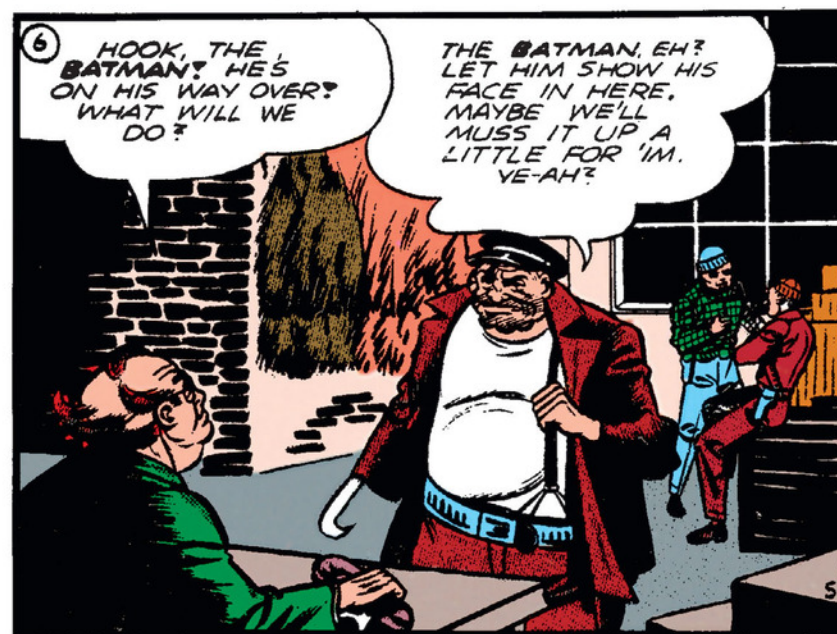
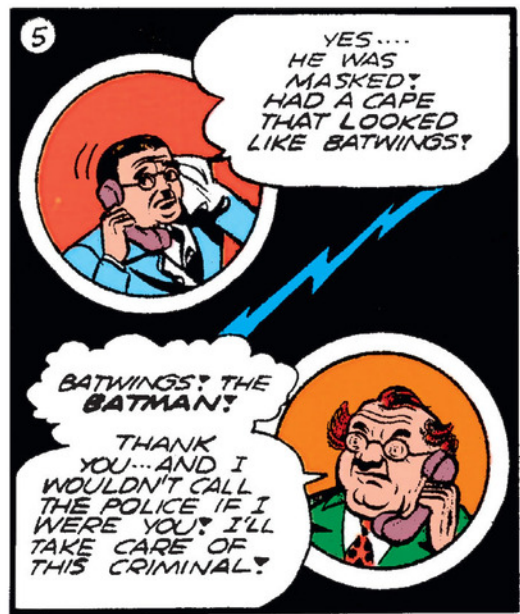
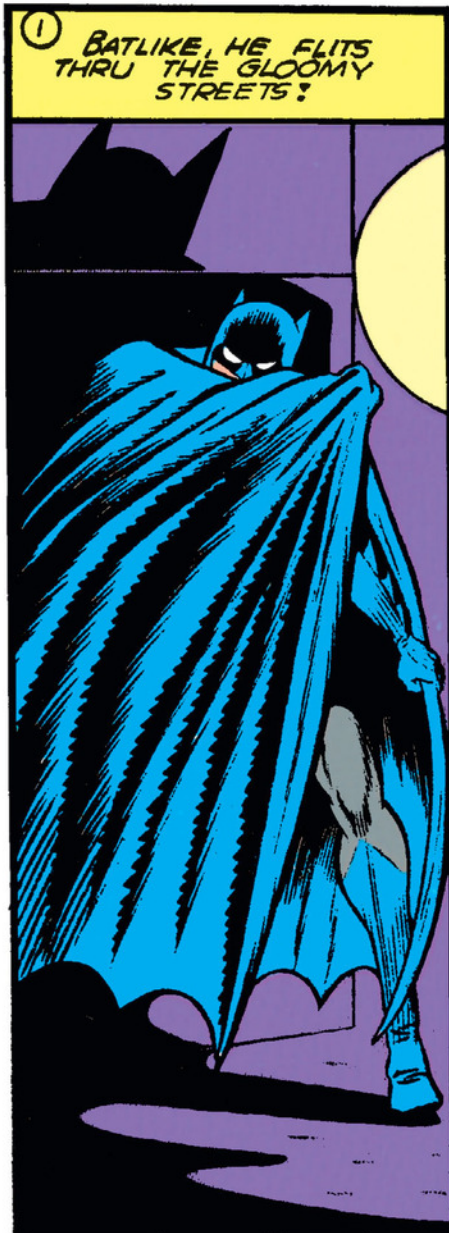
LATER...

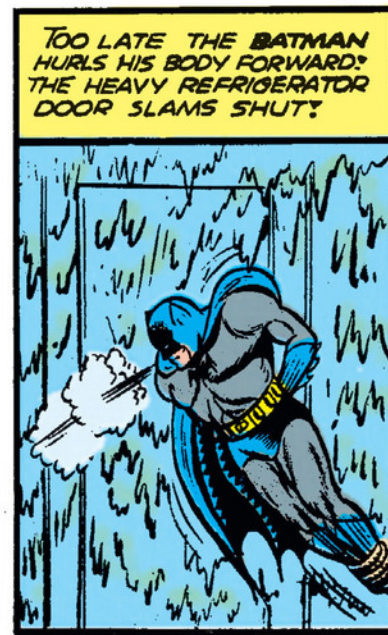
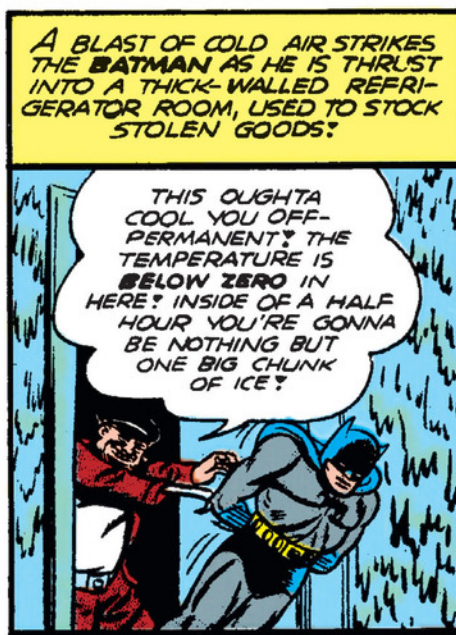
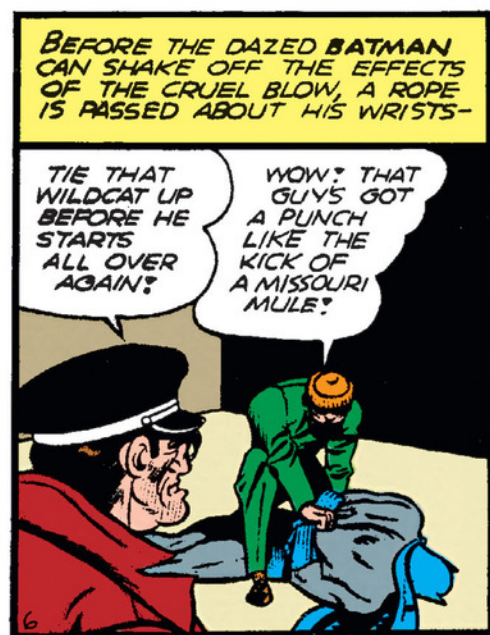
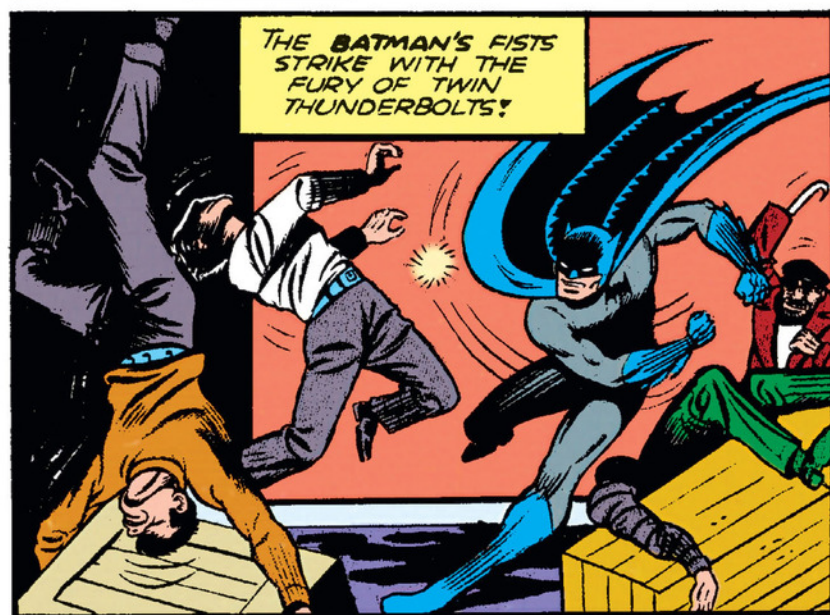
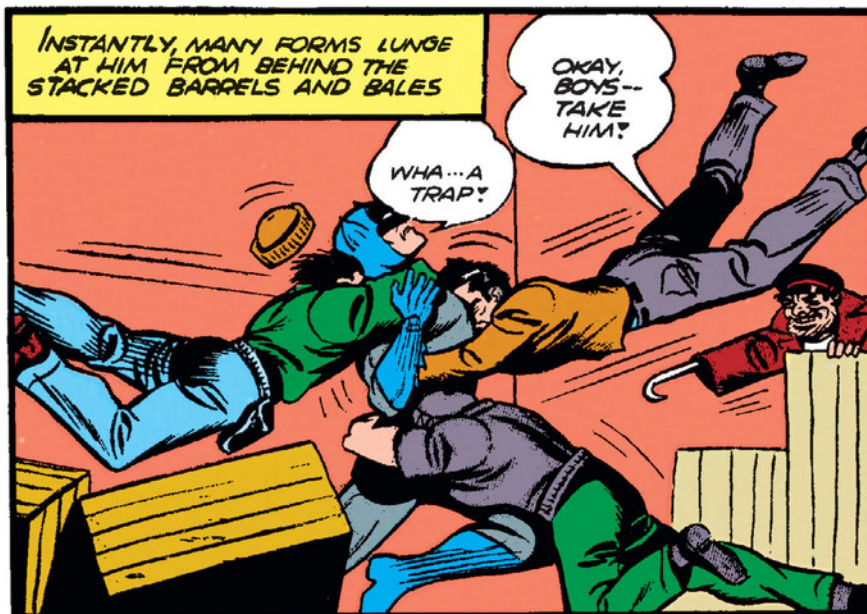
WELL,
LINDA--
GOTTA GO
NOW--

YES--AND
I CAN
GUESS WHERE
TO-- SOME
NIGHT CLUB?
I SHOULD THINK
YOU MIGHT FIND
SOMETHING USEFUL
TO DO WITH
YOUR NIGHTS,
INSTEAD OF KILLING
PRECIOUS TIME
IN A NIGHT
CLUB?

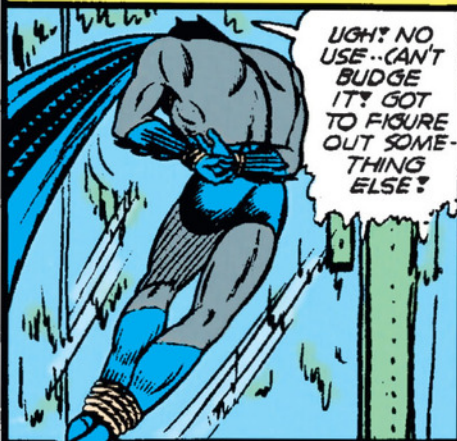
BUT LINDA IS WRONG--
BRUCE WAYNE DOES MAKE
USE OF THE NIGHT. IT
IS NIGHT--DARK, MYSTERIOUS
NIGHT THAT SHROUDS THE
PERSONALITY OF THE
BATMAN--

I'M GOING TO FIND
OUT JUST HOW THAT
STOLEN, EXCLUSIVE CLOTH
GOT INTO
THAT STORE
I LOOKED AT
TODAY. I'LL
BET THE
ANSWER WILL
BE INTERESTING?



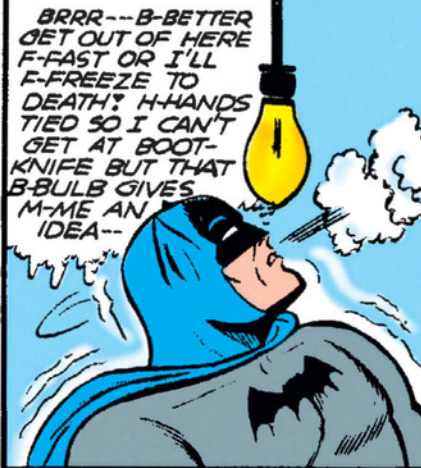


AGAIN THE BATMAN'S MUSCULAR FRAME POUNDS, BATTERS AT THE STEEL DOOR IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM THE MANTLE OF COLD THAT WRAPS ABOUT HIM?



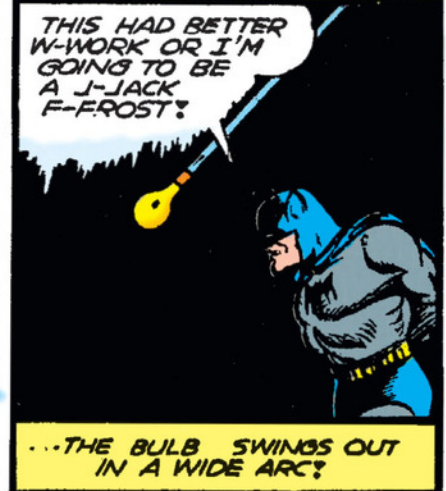
UGH? NO USE--CAN'T BUDGE IT? GOT TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ELSE?

THE BATMAN GROWS NUMB WITH COLD AS INVISIBLE ICE FINGERS TOUCH HIS SHIVERING BODY?



BRRR--B-BETTER GET OUT OF HERE F-FAST OR I'LL F-FREEZE TO DEATH? H-HANDS TIED SO I CAN'T GET AT BOOT-KNIFE BUT THAT B-BULB GIVES M-ME AN IDEA--

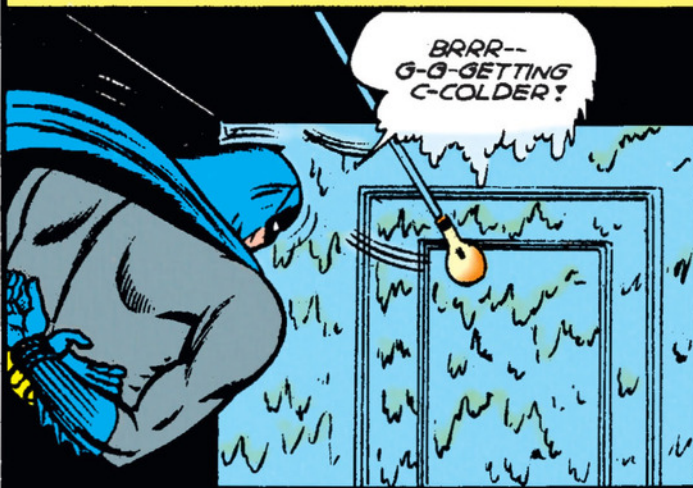
THE BATMAN BUTTS HIS HEAD AGAINST THE DANGLING LIGHT BULB---



THIS HAD BETTER W-WORK OR I'M GOING TO BE A J-JACK F-FROST?

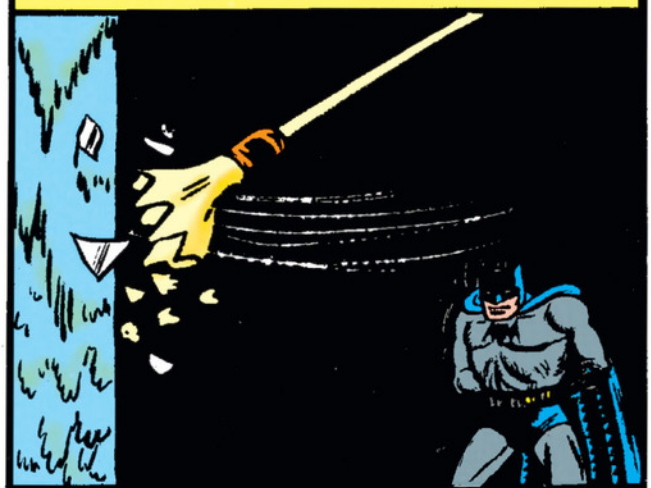
...THE BULB SWINGS OUT IN A WIDE ARC?

AGAIN HE BUTTS AT IT--HARDER THIS TIME? IT SWINGS OUT FARTHER IN A WIDER SWEEPING ARC?



BRRR--G-G-GETTING C-COLDER?

ONE MORE JAB OF THE BATMAN'S HEAD AND THE BULB SWINGS OUT---OUT TILL IT SHATTERS AGAINST A REFRIGERATOR WALL?



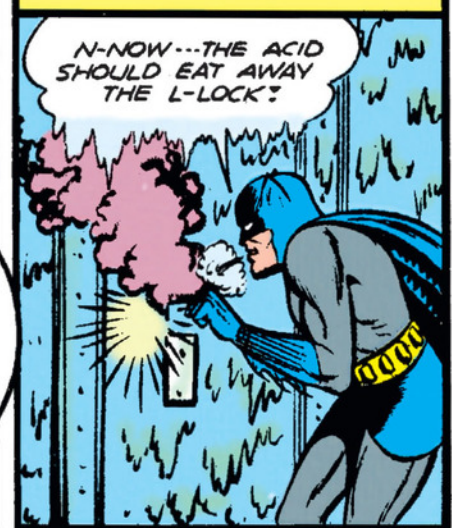
THE BATMAN LIES ON THE FLOOR, HIS HANDS PROBING FOR A JAGGED PIECE OF THE SMASHED GLASS BULB?



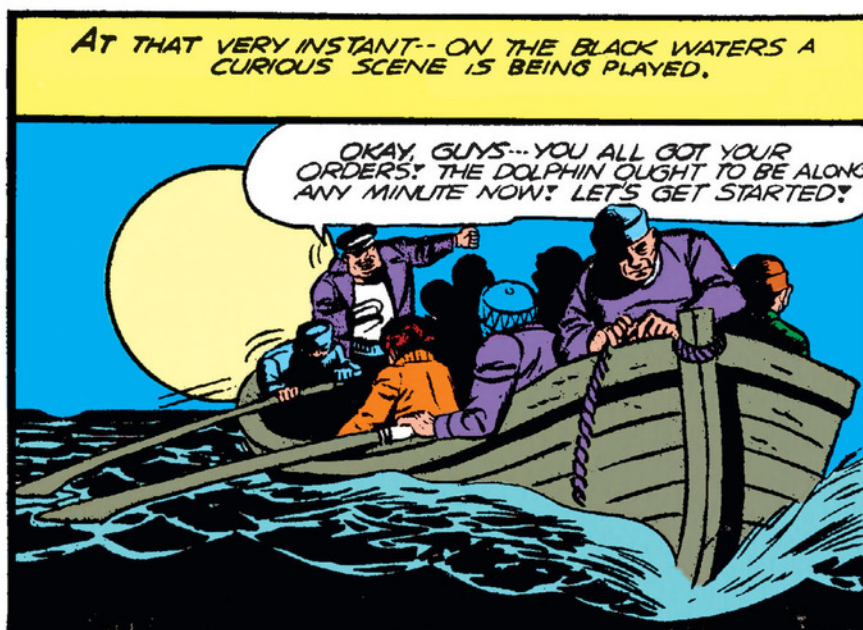
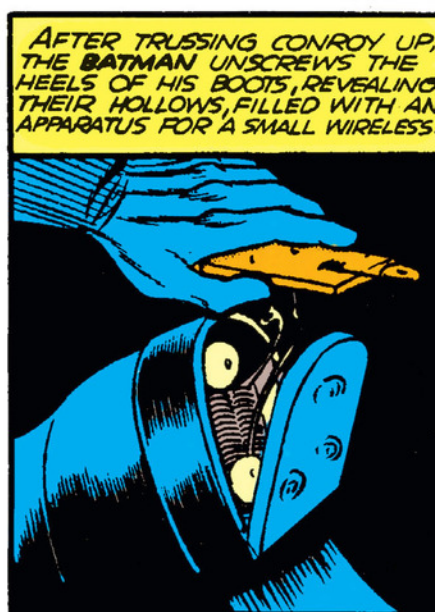
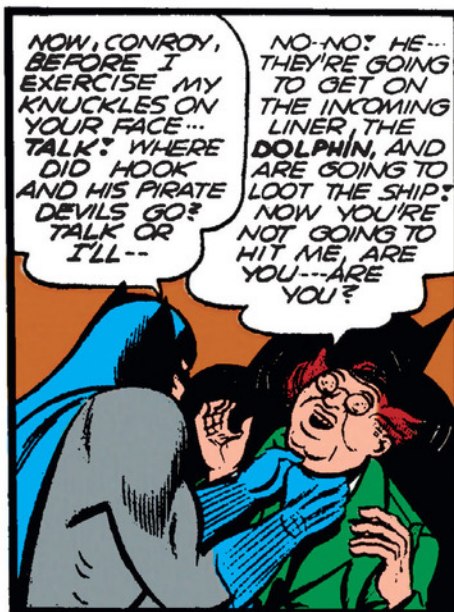
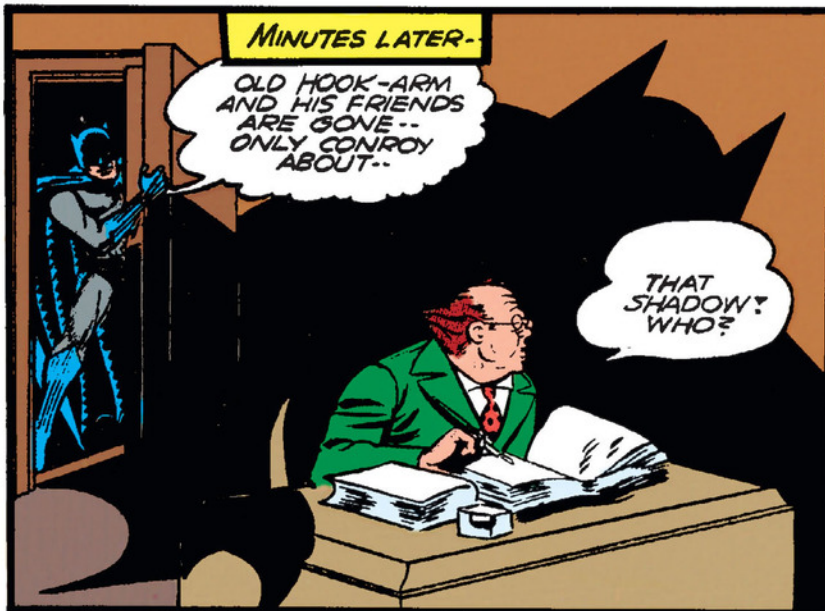
WITH THE RAZOR-SHARP SLIVER BETWEEN FINGERS ALMOST NUMB WITH COLD, HE SAWES AWAY AT HIS BONDS--

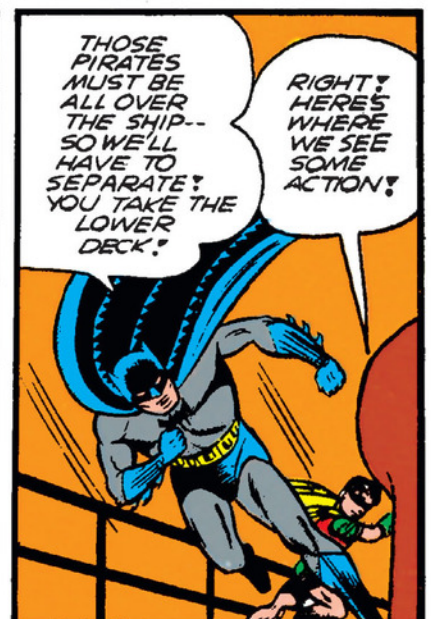
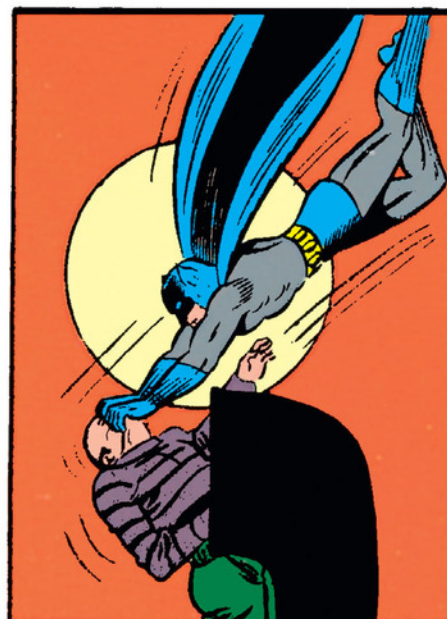
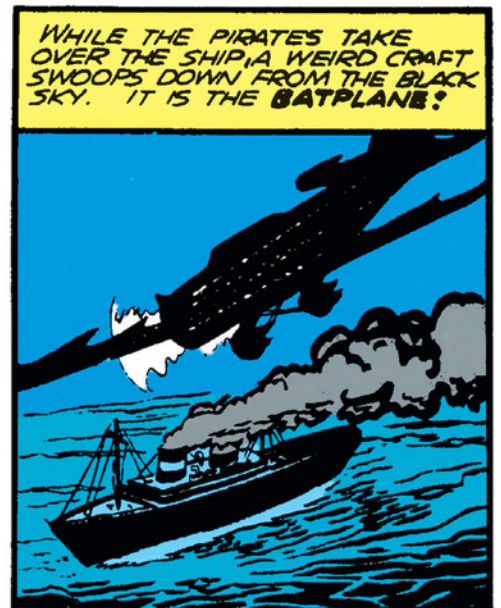
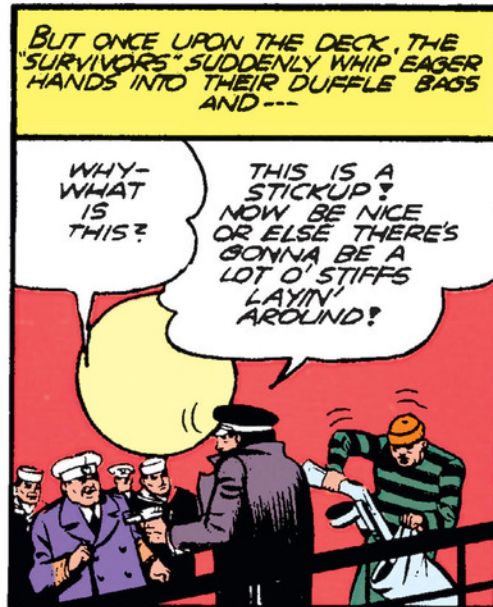
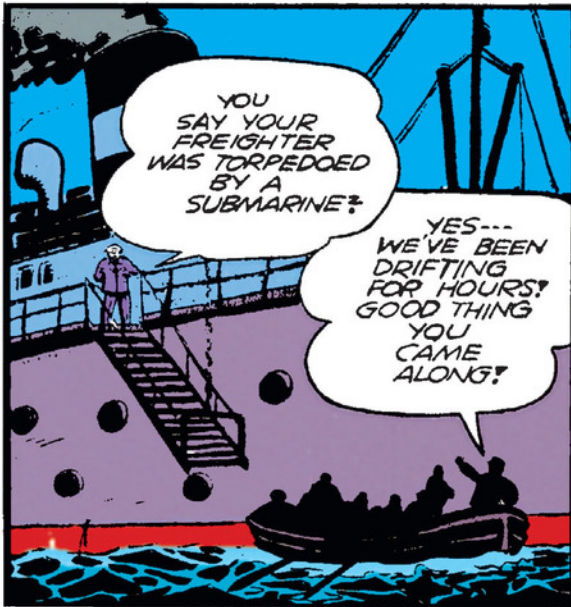


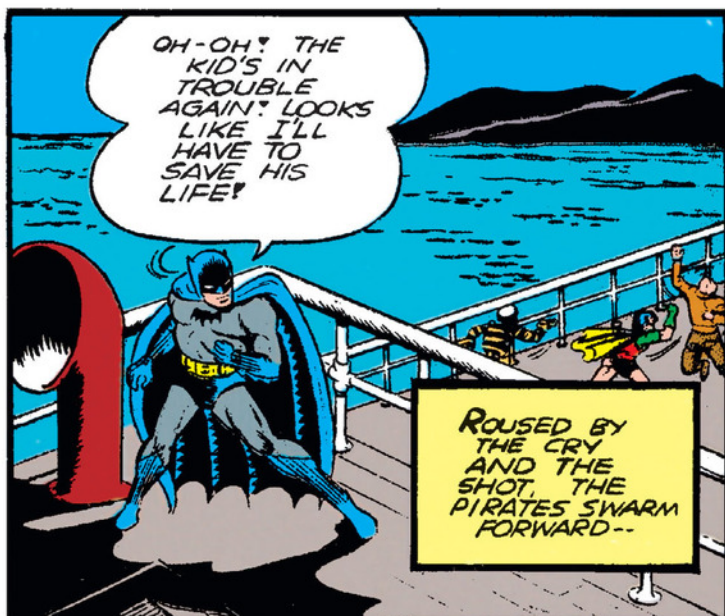
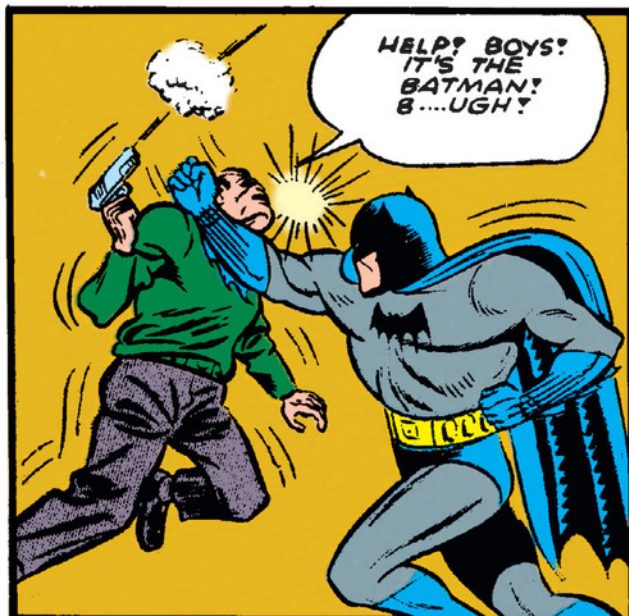
FREE? NOW THE BATMAN BRINGS FORTH A VIAL FROM HIS UTILITY BELT--



N-NOW---THE ACID SHOULD EAT AWAY THE L-LOCK?



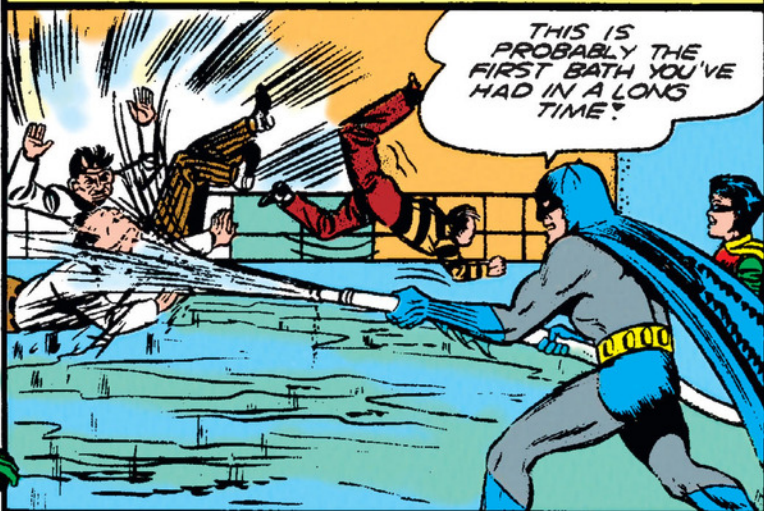




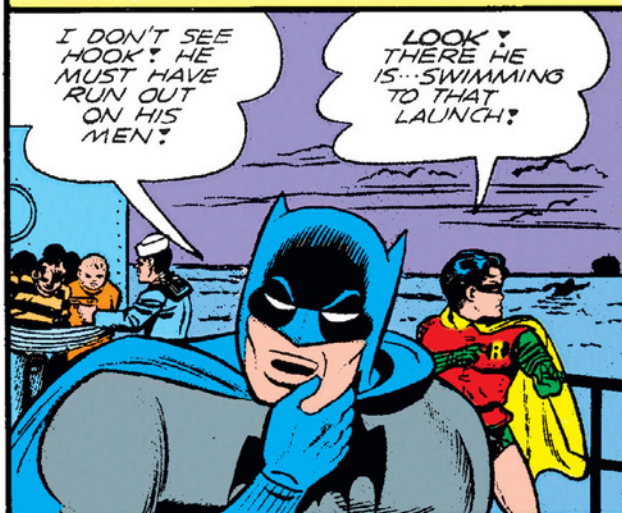
AS THE PIRATES SPILL DOWN IN A TANGLE OF WAVING ARMS AND LEGS, THE BATMAN LEAPS OVER THEM, HIS EYES FASTEN UPON A FALLEN DECK HOSE



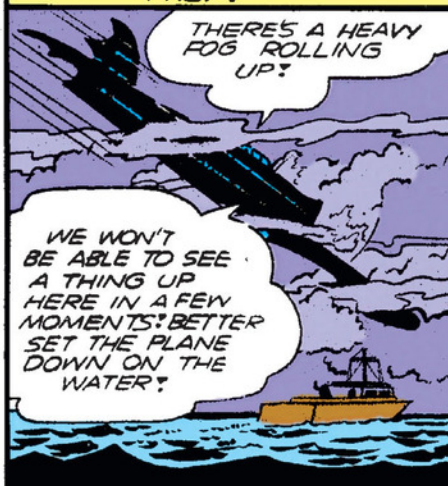
A VERITABLE NIAGARA ENGULFS THE PIRATES, SENDING THEM ROLLING OVER THE DECK LIKE TUMBLEWEED---



THE NOW HELPLESS PIRATES ARE HERDED TOGETHER BY THE SHIP'S CREW!



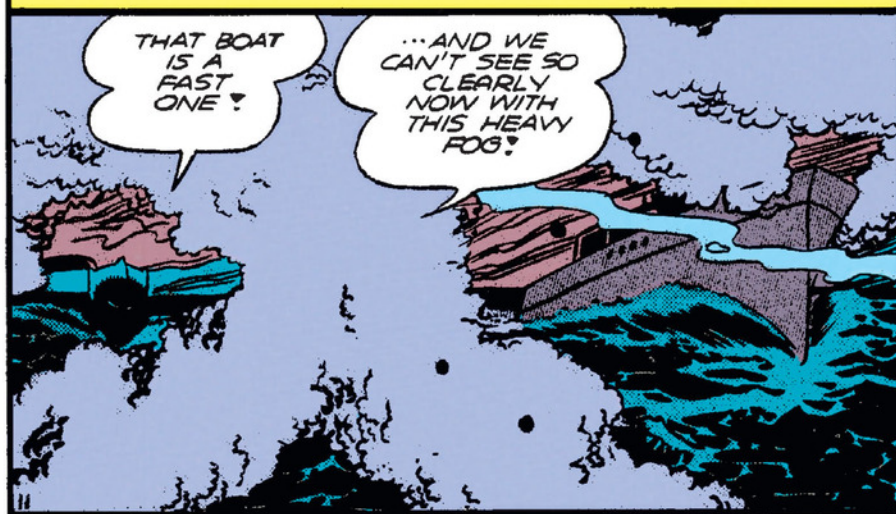
AS THE LAUNCH ROARS AWAY WITH HOOK, THE BATPLANE DARTS AFTER IT LIKE A PURSUING BIRD AFTER HIS PREY!



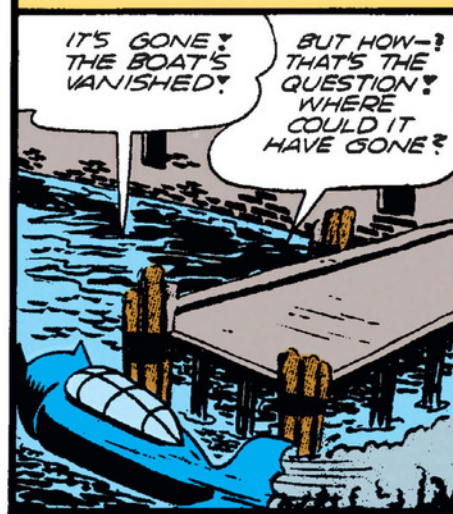
AS THE BATPLANE HITS THE WATER, THE BATMAN PUSHES A BUTTON. MIRACULOUSLY, THE WHEELS ARE DRAWN IN... THE WINGS FOLD AGAINST THE SIDES--

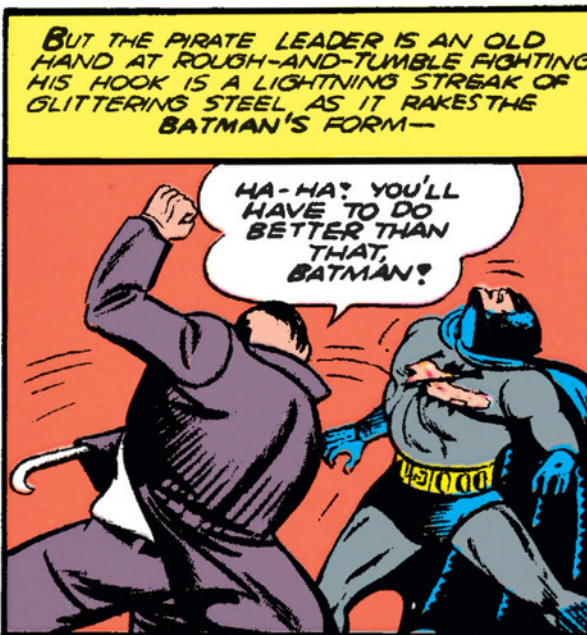
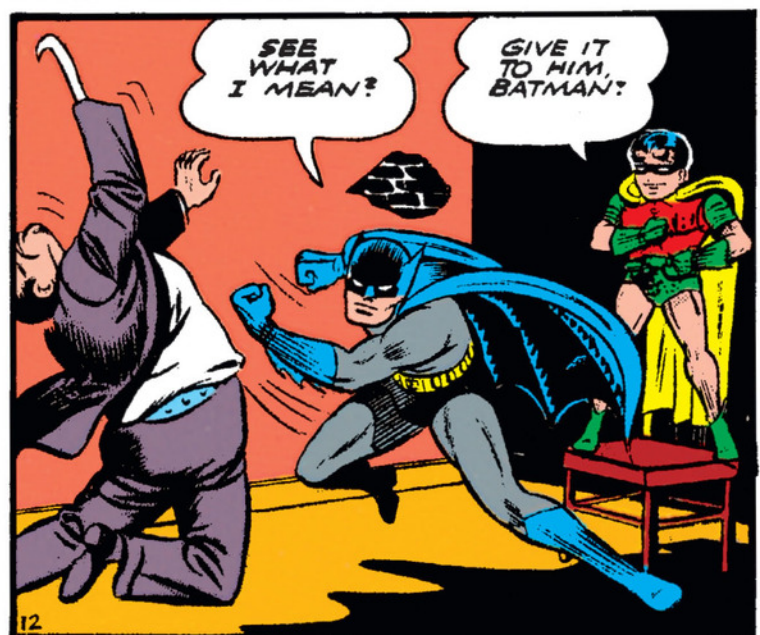
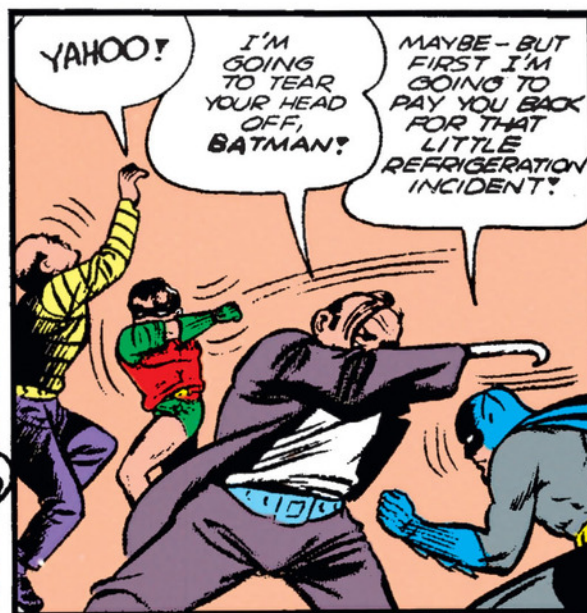
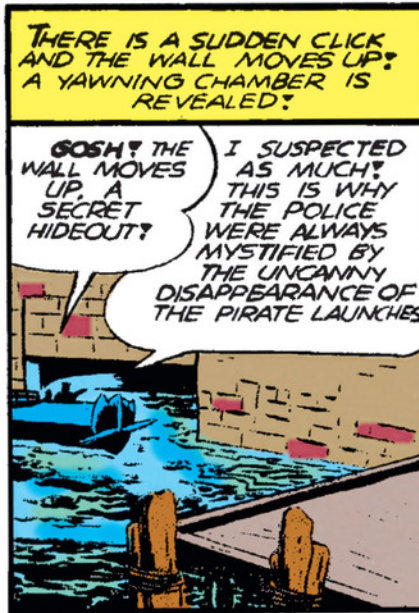
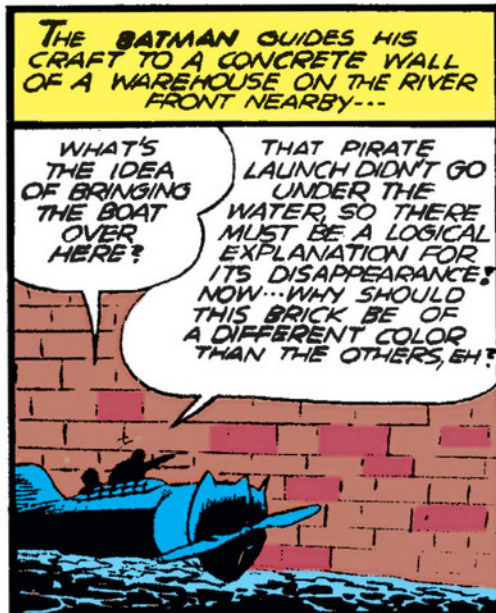


THE SHORE LINE BECOMES A BLUR AS THE BOATS FLASH PAST AT AMAZING SPEED! MILE AFTER MILE WHIPS BY--

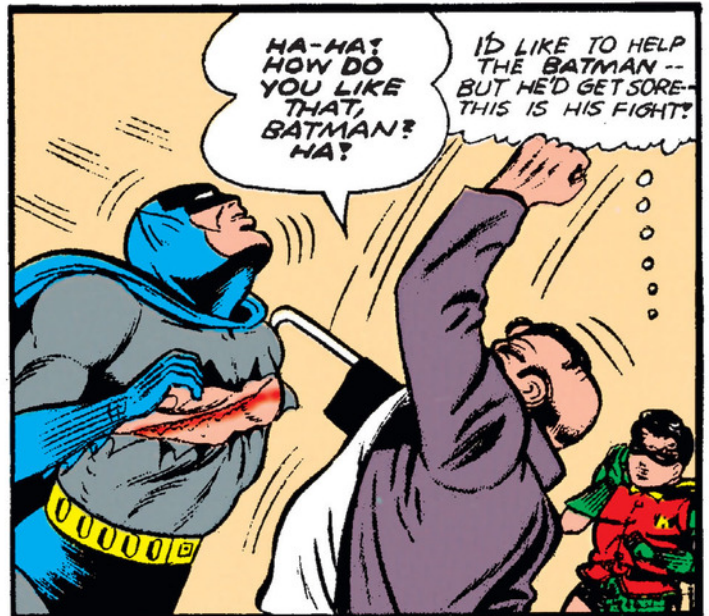


SUDDENLY, AS THE BATMAN'S BOAT TEARS AROUND A PIER, THE CRIME FIGHTER IS AMAZED TO FIND--





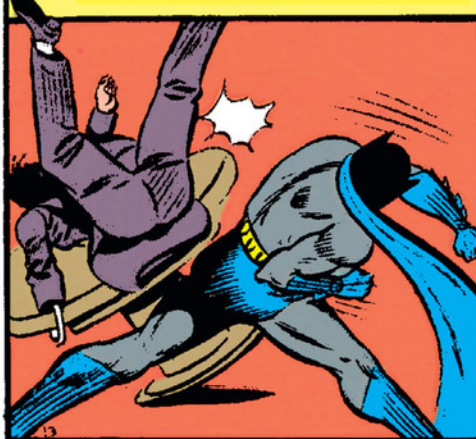
THE HOOK DIGS IN BACK OF THE BATMAN'S SHOULDER, AND HE IS DRAWN TOWARD THE LEERING PIRATE!



AS THE PIRATE TUGS AT THE HOOK THE BATMAN TEARS HIMSELF FREE FROM HIS IRON GRIP AND---



THE BATMAN BOUNDS FORWARD WITH THE EASY GRACE OF A GREAT CAT! HIS FIST WHISTLES THRU THE AIR --- CRACK! AND THE HARBOR PIRATE FLIES BACK INTO A SPRAWLING UNCONSCIOUS MASS UPON THE FLOOR---



WOW! THAT WAS A FIGHT! DON'T I KNOW IT? WHEW! JUST LET ME CATCH MY BREATH A MINUTE AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY! THE COPS WILL BE PLENTY INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT THIS IS THE END OF THE HARBOR PIRATES!

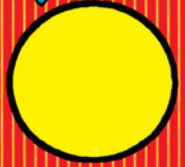


No. 6



BATMAN

AUGUST
SEPT.



STARRING
BATMAN
AND ROBIN
IN BRAND NEW
WHIRLWIND
ADVENTURES

BOB
KRAWE

BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

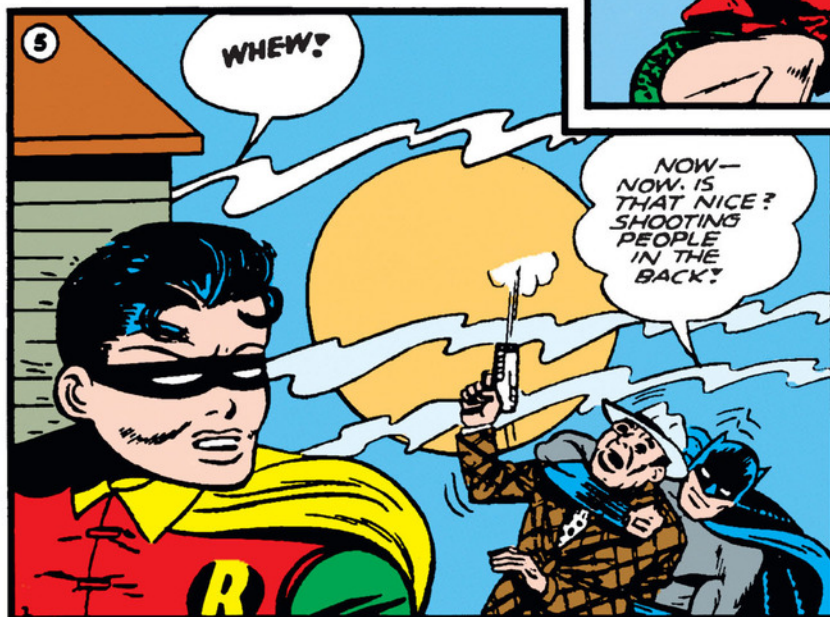
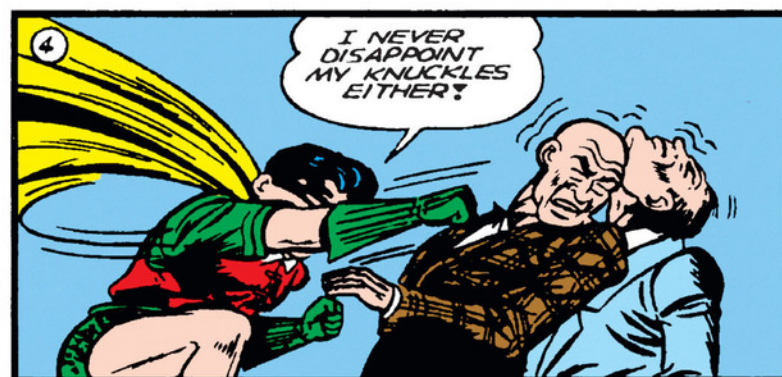
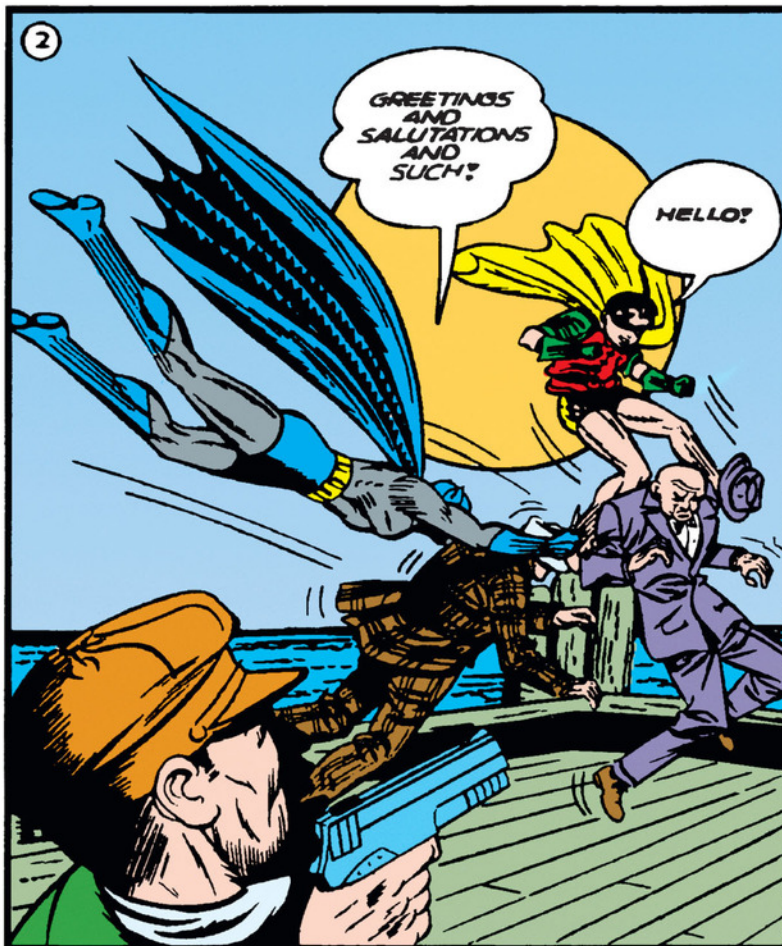
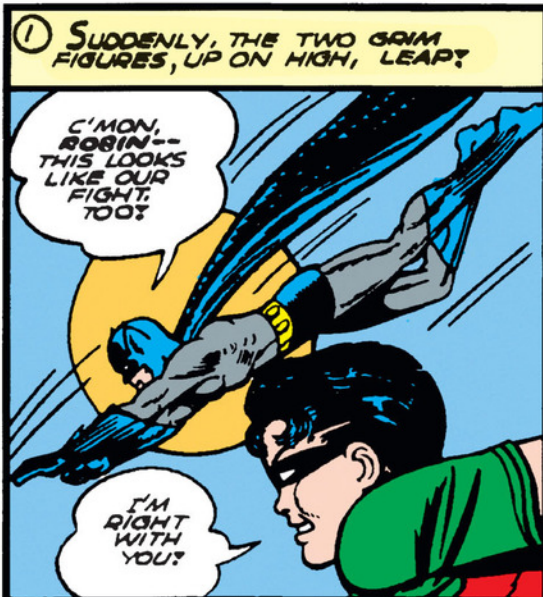
by
BOB KANE

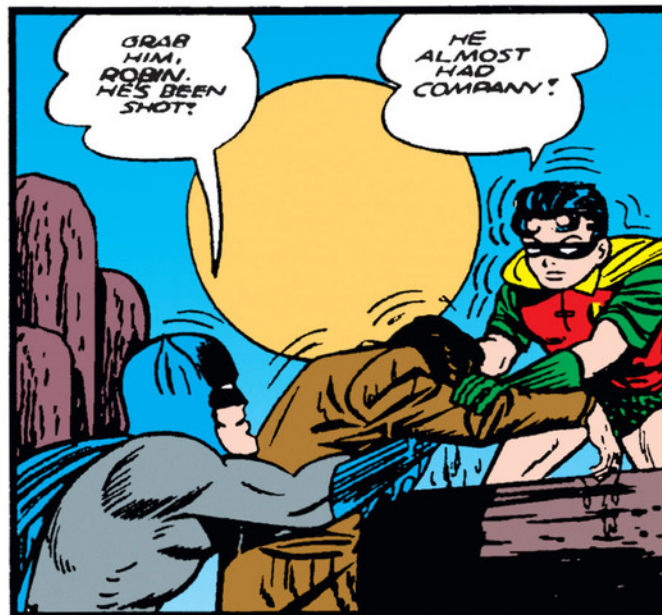
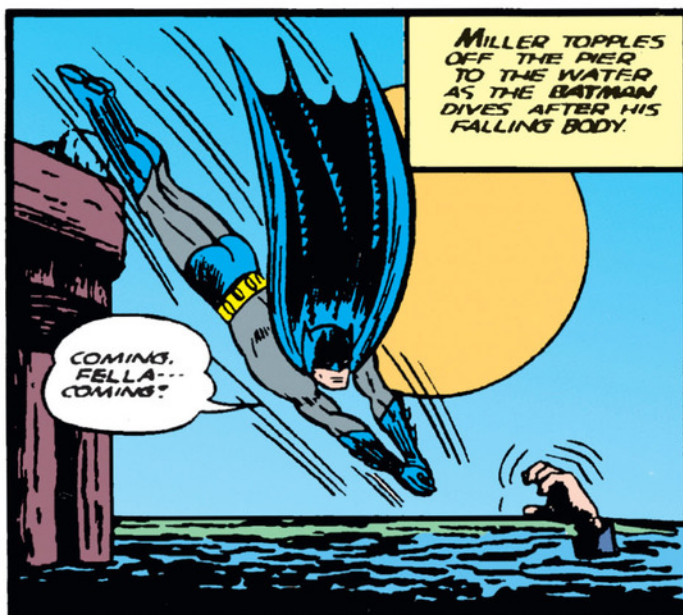
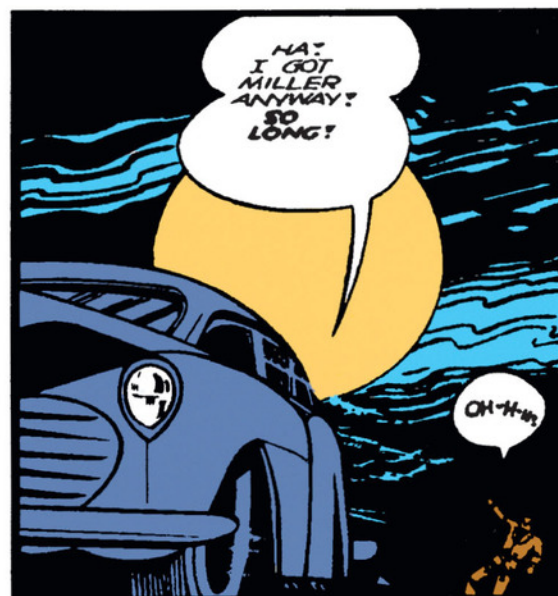
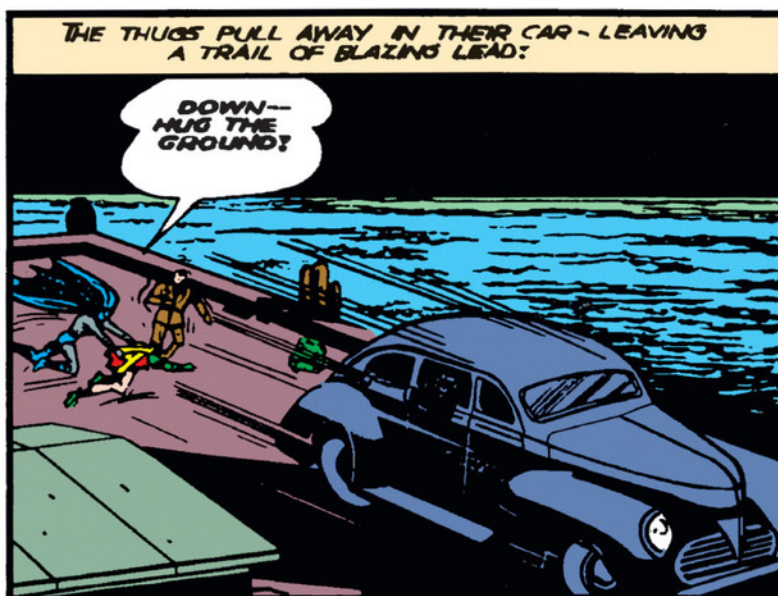
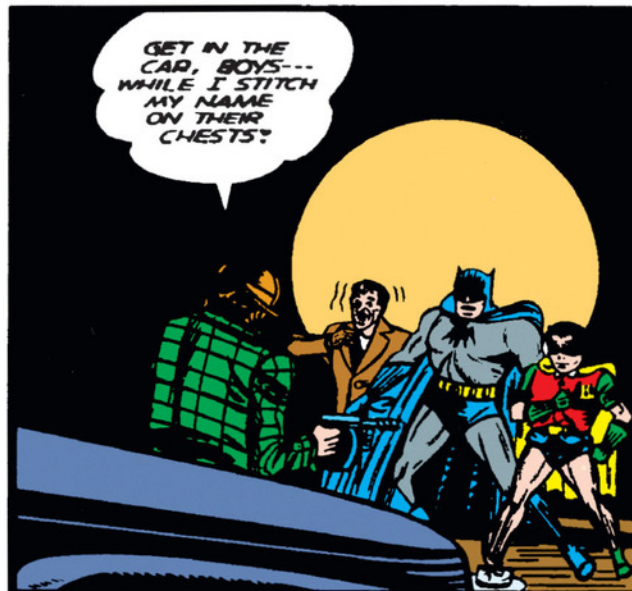
WHEN A MASTER OF EVIL TRIES
TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE LAW,
TWO RASH MORTALS DARE TO VENTURE
INTO CRIME'S DOMAIN TO SEEK OUT ITS
HIDDEN CHIEF --- TWO BRAVE HUMANS, TWIN
FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE --- THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! FOLLOW THEM
NOW AS A TRAIL OF CRIME AS THEY DRAW
INTO A LAIR THAT HIDES THE REAL TRUTH OF ---
ASIDE THE VEIL THAT HIDES THE REAL TRUTH OF ---
♦ MURDER ON PAROLE. ♦

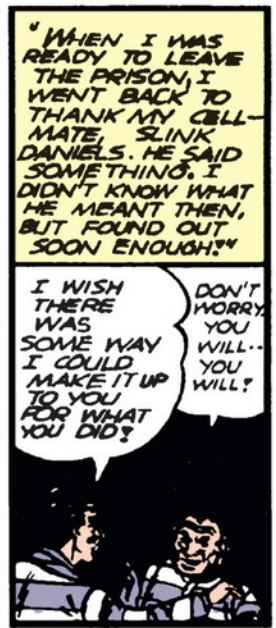
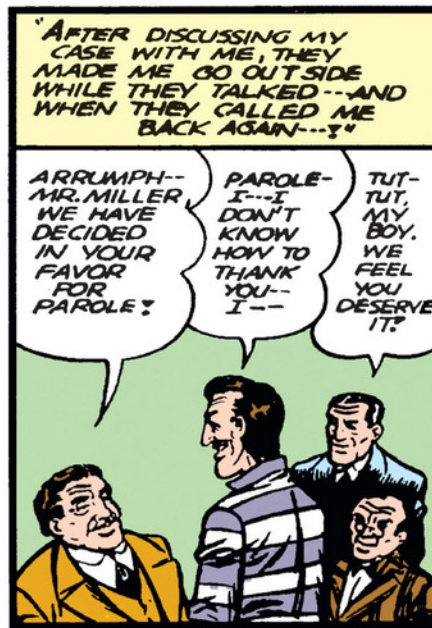
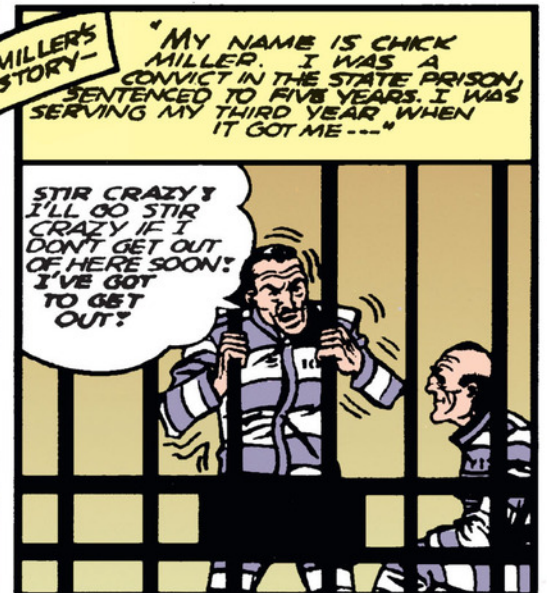
NIGHT FALLS---A BLANKET
OF DARKNESS AND MYSTERY.
HIGH OVER THE GLOOMY
WATERFRONT, TWO
COSTUMED FIGURES STAND
POISED AND VIEW A GRIM
SCENE ---

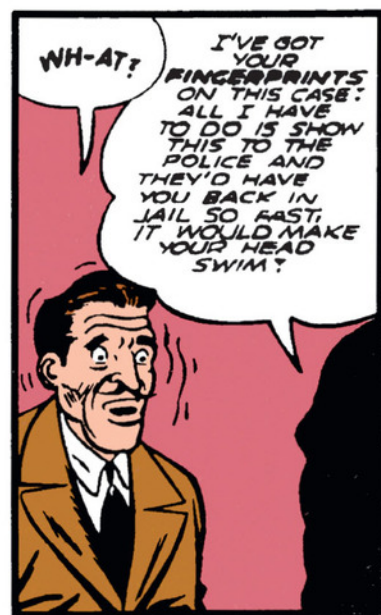
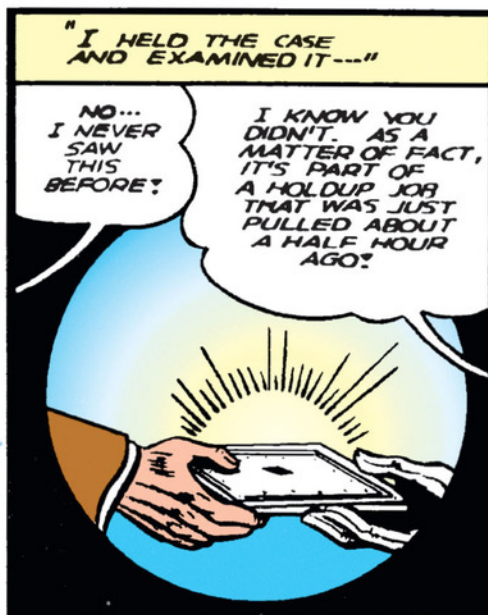
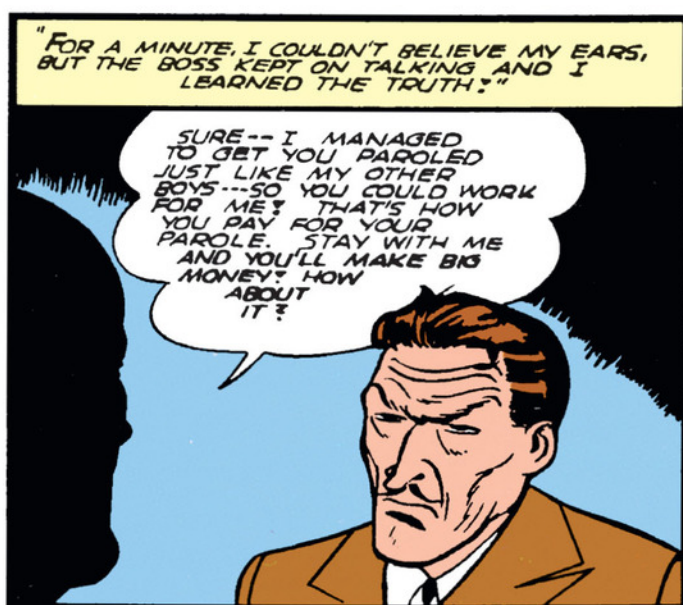
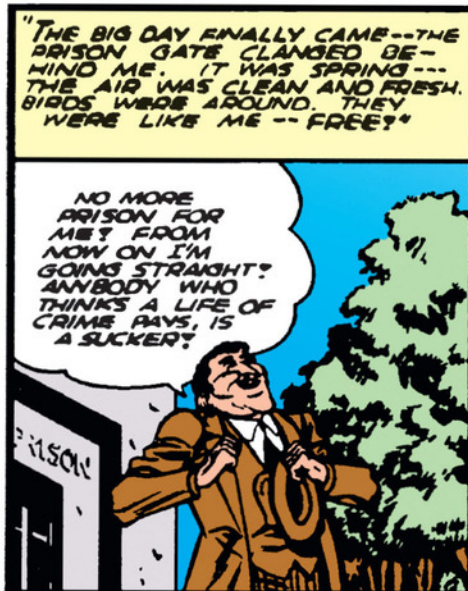
OKAY,
SHOULDERS--
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL
ME, YOU MIGHT
AS WELL
GET IT
OVER
WITH!

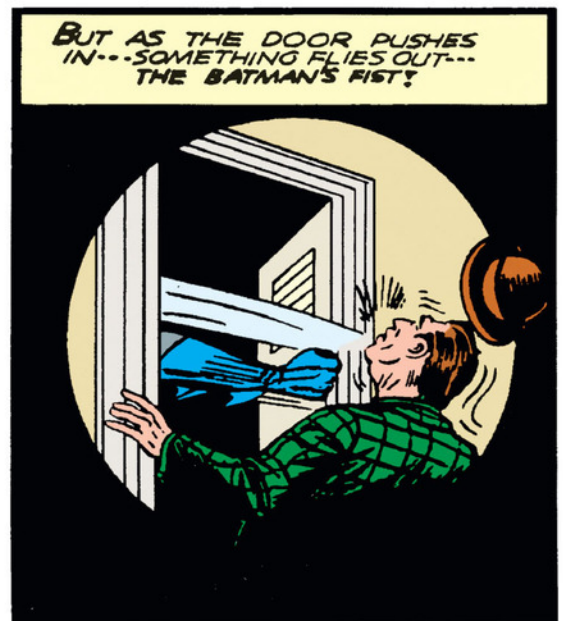
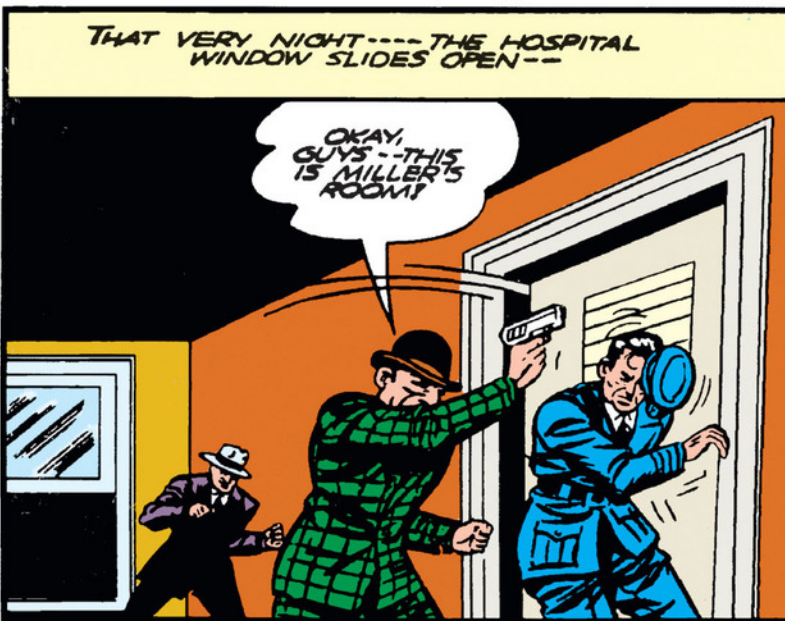
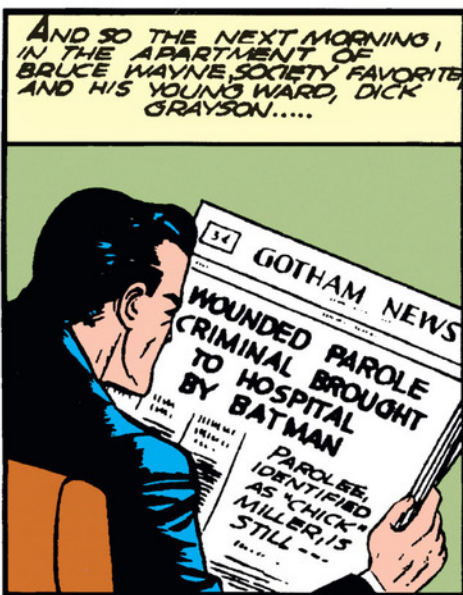
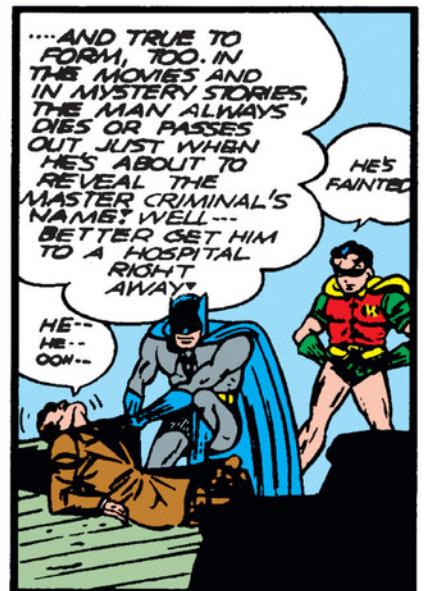
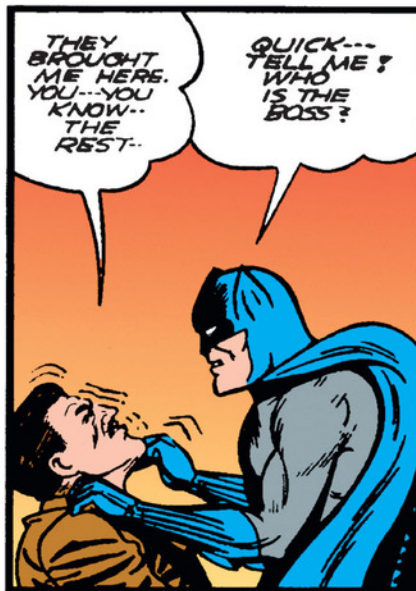
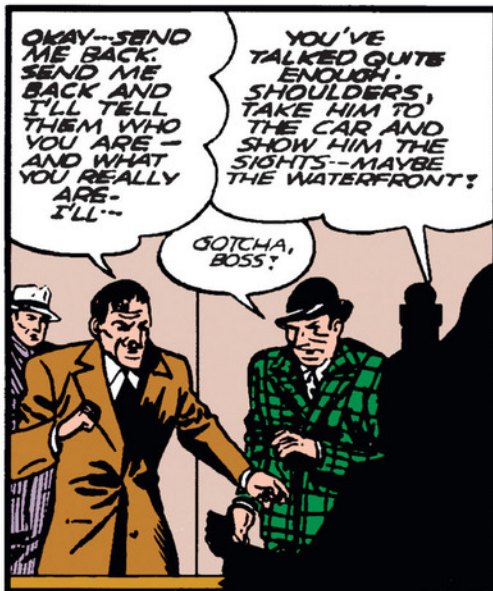
YOU MUST
BE AWFUL
ANXIOUS TO
DIE, MILLER--
SO I WON'T
DISAPPOINT
YA-- HERE
IT COMES!

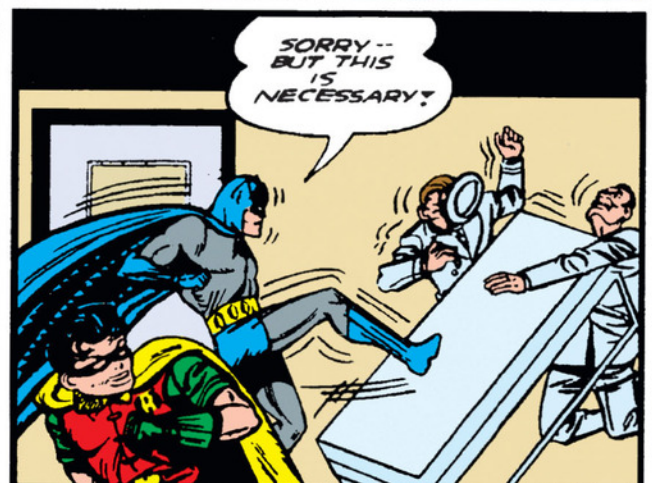
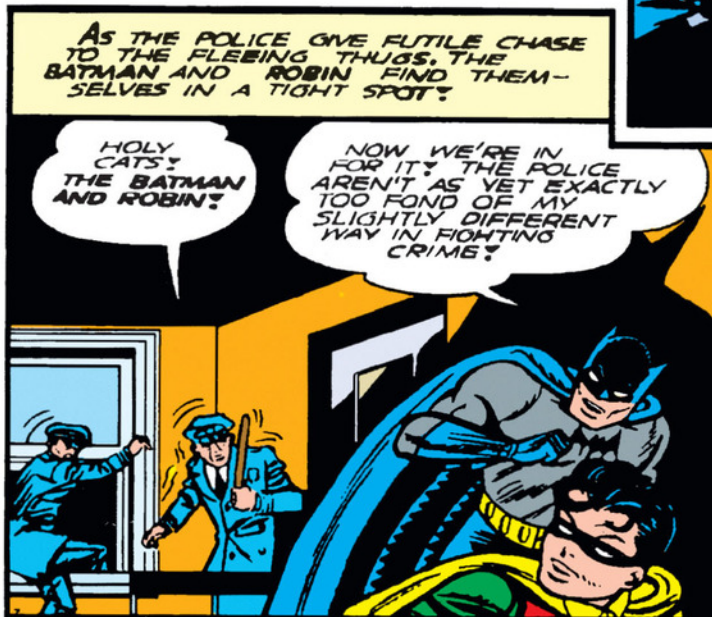
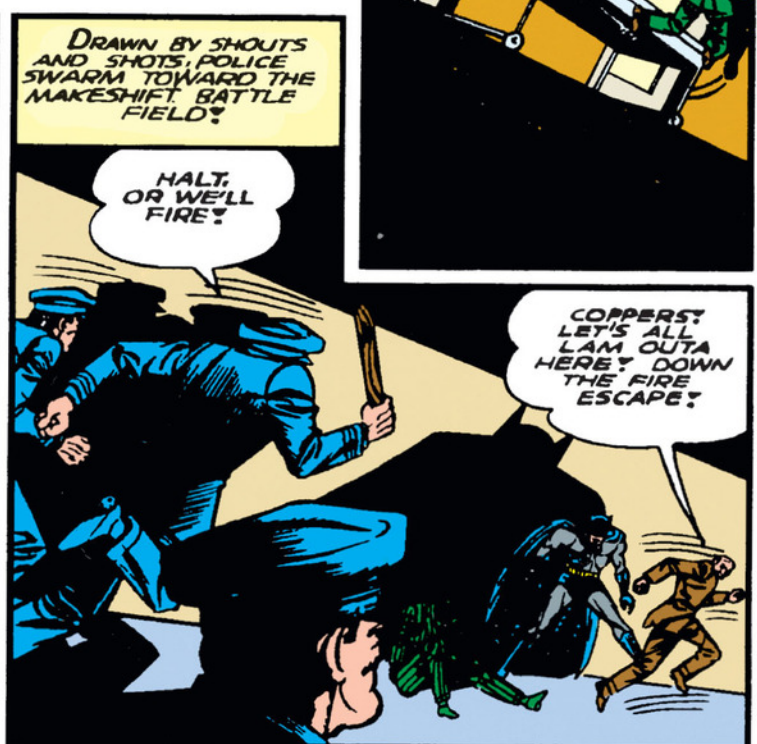
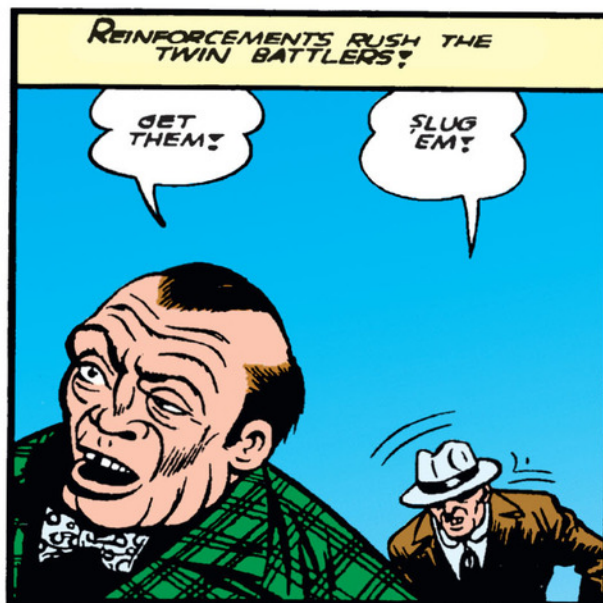
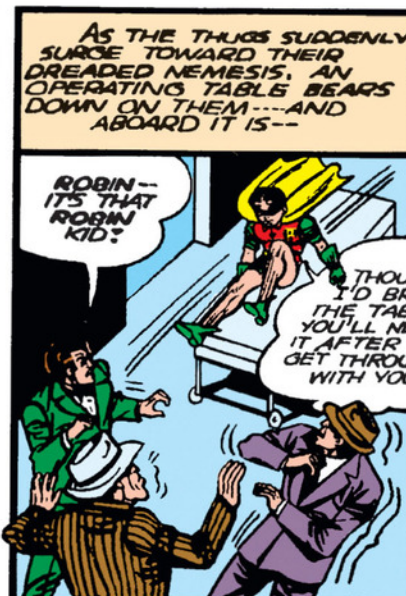


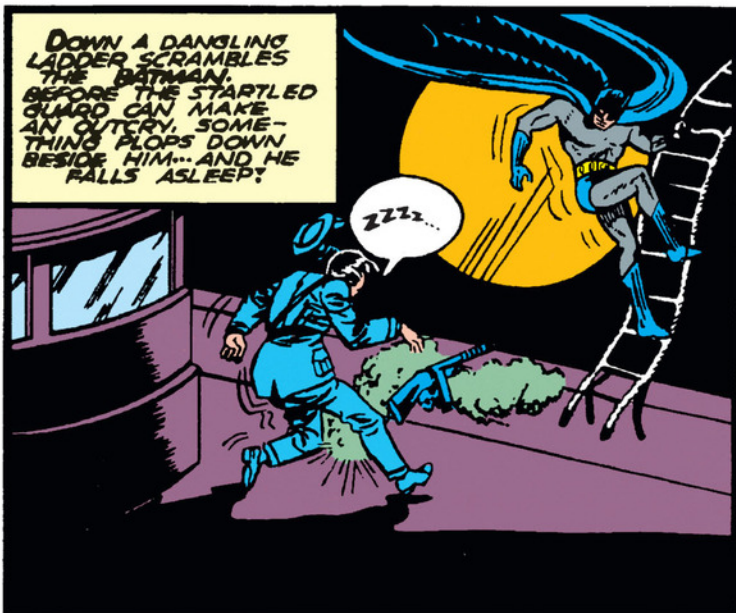












IT IS THE BATMAN WHO BECOMES SLINK'S CELLMATE AND BEGINS HIS GREAT IMPERSONATION--

THIS CELL IS DRIVIN' ME NUTS! I'M GONNA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

I GOT A BETTER WAY TO SPRING YOU, MARTY! HOW ABOUT A PAROLE?

AND SO IT IS NOT LONG AFTER THE BATMAN IS FREED BY THE PAROLE BOARD?

ARRUMPH-- MARTY LODEN, WE HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR FAVOR!

YOU ARE A FREE MAN!

WHICH... WHICH ONE OF THESE MEN IS THE "BOSS"?

AND THE BOYS MEET "MARTY LODEN" AND TAKE HIM TO THE "BOSS"--

HIM?

SURE... SURE... YOU GOT ME OUT. SURE I'LL WORK WITH YOUR MOB!

YOU'RE A SENSIBLE FELLOW, MARTY. YOU CAN START TO WORK!

THE BOSS:

I'M SENDING THE BOYS OUT TO ROB A WAREHOUSE OF SILKS TONIGHT! YOU CAN GO ALONG!

THAT NIGHT, ROBIN TAKES HIS STAND BY THE BOSS'S ROOM--

THE BATMAN TOLD ME TO BE SURE THE BOSS DOESN'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT GETTING AWAY... GOT TO BE CAREFUL-- KEEP MY EYES OPEN--

AND ON THE WATERFRONT, CLOAKED IN THE INK OF MID-NIGHT, THIEVES LOOT A WAREHOUSE--

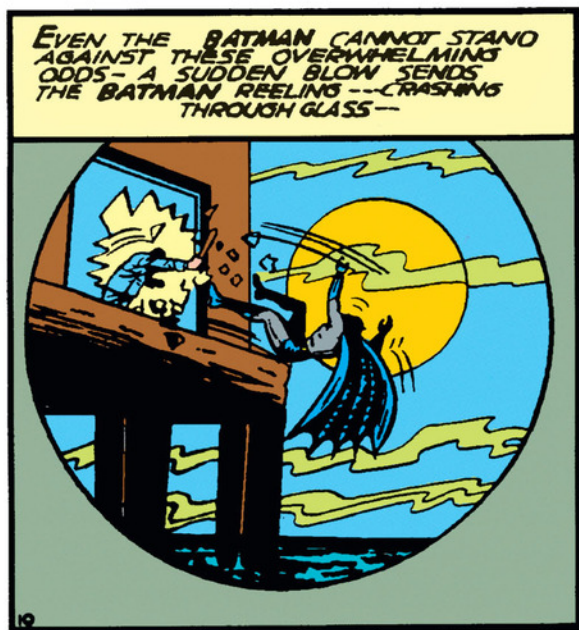
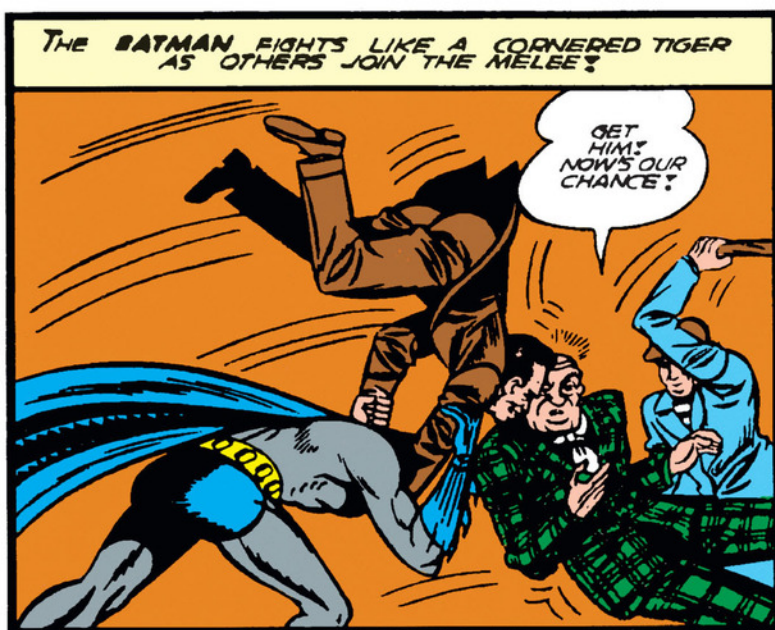
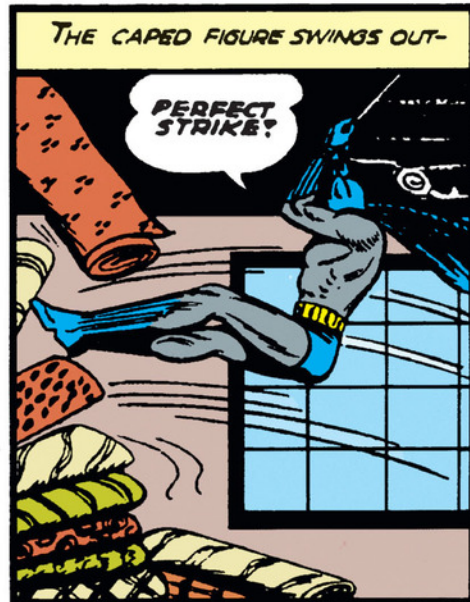
RE HOUSE

HEY, MARTY-- WATCHA DOIN'? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITCH YA?

NOTHING--

MARTY, THE GANGSTER, WIPES THE MAKEUP FROM HIS FACE, RIPS OFF HIS CLOTHING AND STANDING IN HIS PLACE IS--

THE BATMAN? UGH?



MINUTES PASS---

HE AIN'T COME UP YET! THAT GUY'S GONE FOR GOOD THIS TIME!

NOW THAT THE BATMAN IS FINISHED, LET'S FINISH UP HERE! GET THE STUFF AWAY AND THEN WE SCRAM BACK TO THE BOSS!



LATER-- AS ROBIN PACES THE HALLWAY, A HAND WHIPS ABOUT HIS MOUTH--

YEAH-- THE BOSS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE HIM!

IT'S THAT WISE ROBIN KID THAT WORKS WITH THE BATMAN!



THE BOSS IS INFORMED OF THE SWIFT-MOVING EVENTS OF THAT NIGHT....

SURE --- THE BATMAN WAS MARTY LODEN?

SO --- WELL... MAYBE WE OUGHT TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ROBIN, TOO-- VERY GOOD CARE!



SUDDENLY, THE DOOR CRASHES OPEN-- AND IN WALKS SLINK?

SLINK? WHAT--- WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF JAIL?

I BROKE OUT, I WAS GETTIN' STIR CRAZY LIKE THOSE GUYS YOU GET OUT ON PAROLE!



YOU FOOL! WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT TILL I GOT YOU OUT ON PAROLE?

WHO YOU KIDDIN'? NOT EVEN YOU CAN GET ME OUT--- NO GUYS WITH MURDER RAPS ARE PAROLED-- AN' YOU KNOW IT!



SUDDENLY, THE EERIE WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN CUTS THROUGH THE NIGHT AIR?

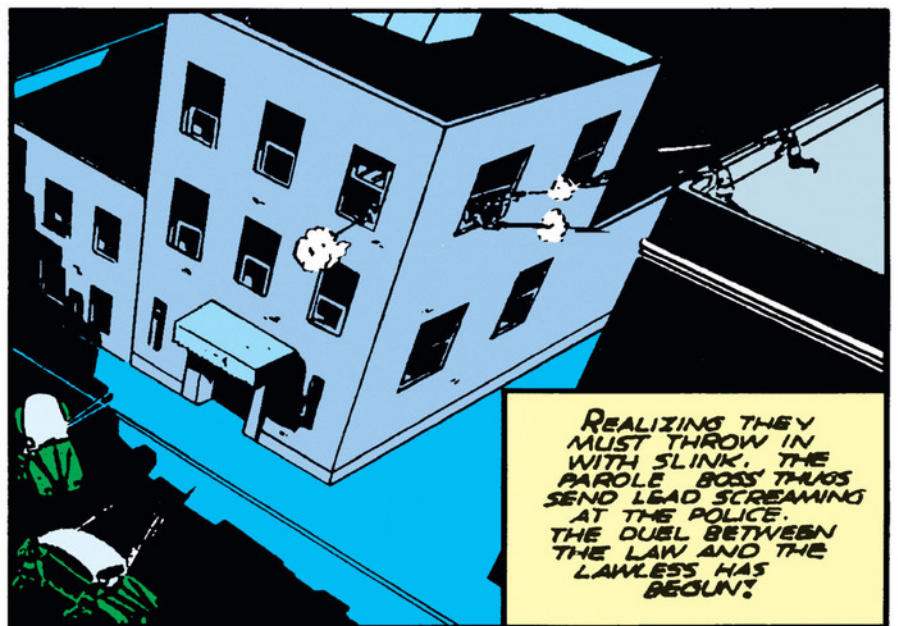
COPS--- THEY MUST'VE FOLLOWED YOU HERE?

I'LL FIX THEM!



MENY SPREAD OUT--- SURROUND THE PLACE-- GET ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE BUILDING OUT--- AND THEN START FIRING!

UGH!



REALIZING THEY MUST THROW IN WITH SLINK, THE PAROLE BOSS THUGS SEND LEAD SCREAMING AT THE POLICE. THE DUEL BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE LAWLESS HAS BEGUN!

AS THE BATTLE OF BULLETS RAGES, A DRIPPING FIGURE PULLS ITSELF ONTO THE WATERFRONT PIER---IT IS THE BATMAN!

WOW--MY HEAD! I MUST HAVE BEEN DRIFTING ON THE WATER FOR QUITE A FEW MINUTES. BETTER GET BACK TO ROBIN--

MEANWHILE, THE BOSS' THUGS FALL LIKE LEAVES IN A STORM BEFORE THE WITHERING GUNFIRE---

GET MOVING, KID?

THEY'RE CUTTIN' US TO PIECES!

LOOK OUT? THEY'RE SHOOTING--- (COUGH-COUGH?) TEAR GAS CARTRIDGES?

IF ANY COP SO MUCH AS MOVES INTO THE BUILDING, THIS BOY DIES?

HERE COME THE RATS--RUNNING OUT OF THEIR HOLES?

COUGH?

RUN INSIDE AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THEM HOLED UP?

HELLO? I'M COMING FOR ROBIN?

ROBIN? I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT BOY KILLED? EVEN THOUGH HE DOES WORK OUTSIDE THE LAW, STILL HE DOES FIGHT CRIME? IF---

IT'S YOU, BATMAN! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET THE GREAT BATMAN--AND NOW I'M GOING TO GET MY WISH! COME ON, BATMAN--HA-HA?

AND ALONE AND UNAFRAID, THE BATMAN WALKS TOWARD WHAT SEEMS CERTAIN DEATH---

I'M COMING UP THERE TO GET YOU? I'M WALKING UP THE STEPS NOW?

AND THOSE WILL BE THE LAST STEPS YOU'LL EVER WALK? HA-HA?

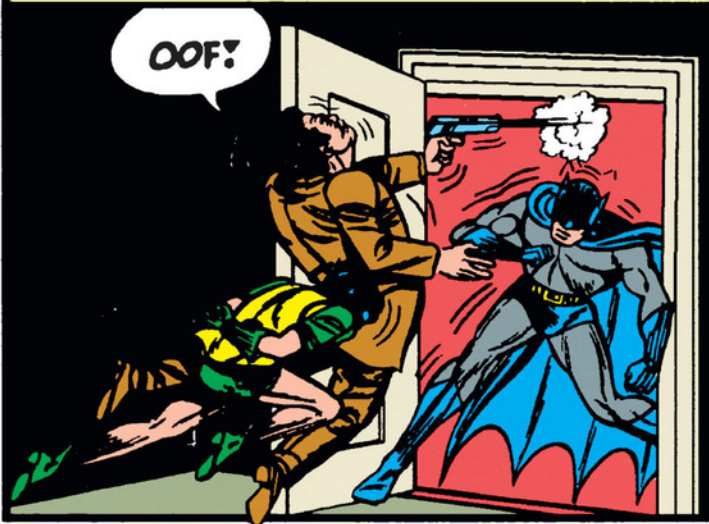
BETTER GET READY, I'M ALMOST THERE?

HA? I'M READY--AND WAITING TO SEE YOU DIE?

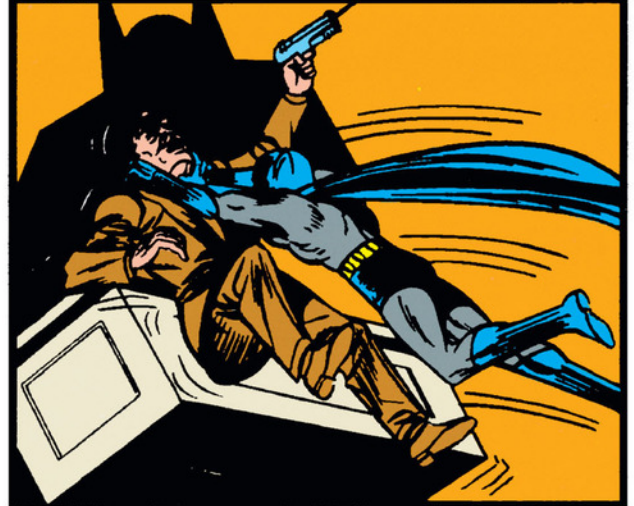
I'M HERE, FELLA?

OKAY, BATMAN--YOU ASKED FOR IT?

ABRUPTLY--ROBIN ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT--



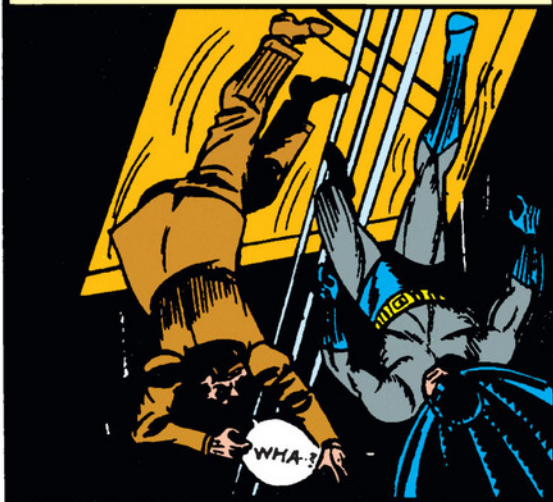
THE CRIME-FIGHTER AND CRIME-MASTER CLASH IN A BATTLE TO DEATH.



A SUDDEN BLOW SENDS THE BATMAN OFF BALANCE AND REELING TOWARD AN OPEN ELEVATOR SHAFT--



BUT THE MADMAN'S CHARGE CARRIES HIM TOO FAR. BOTH THE BATMAN AND THE PAROLE RACKETEER PLUNGE DOWN THE SHAFT!



EVEN AS HE DROPS, LIKE A LEADEN PLUMMET, THE BATMAN'S HAND CLOSES VISELIKE ABOUT THE OILY ELEVATOR CABLE--BUT THE PAROLE RACKETEER IS NOT SO FORTUNATE. A TRAILING SHRIEK MARKS HIS END!



LATER--

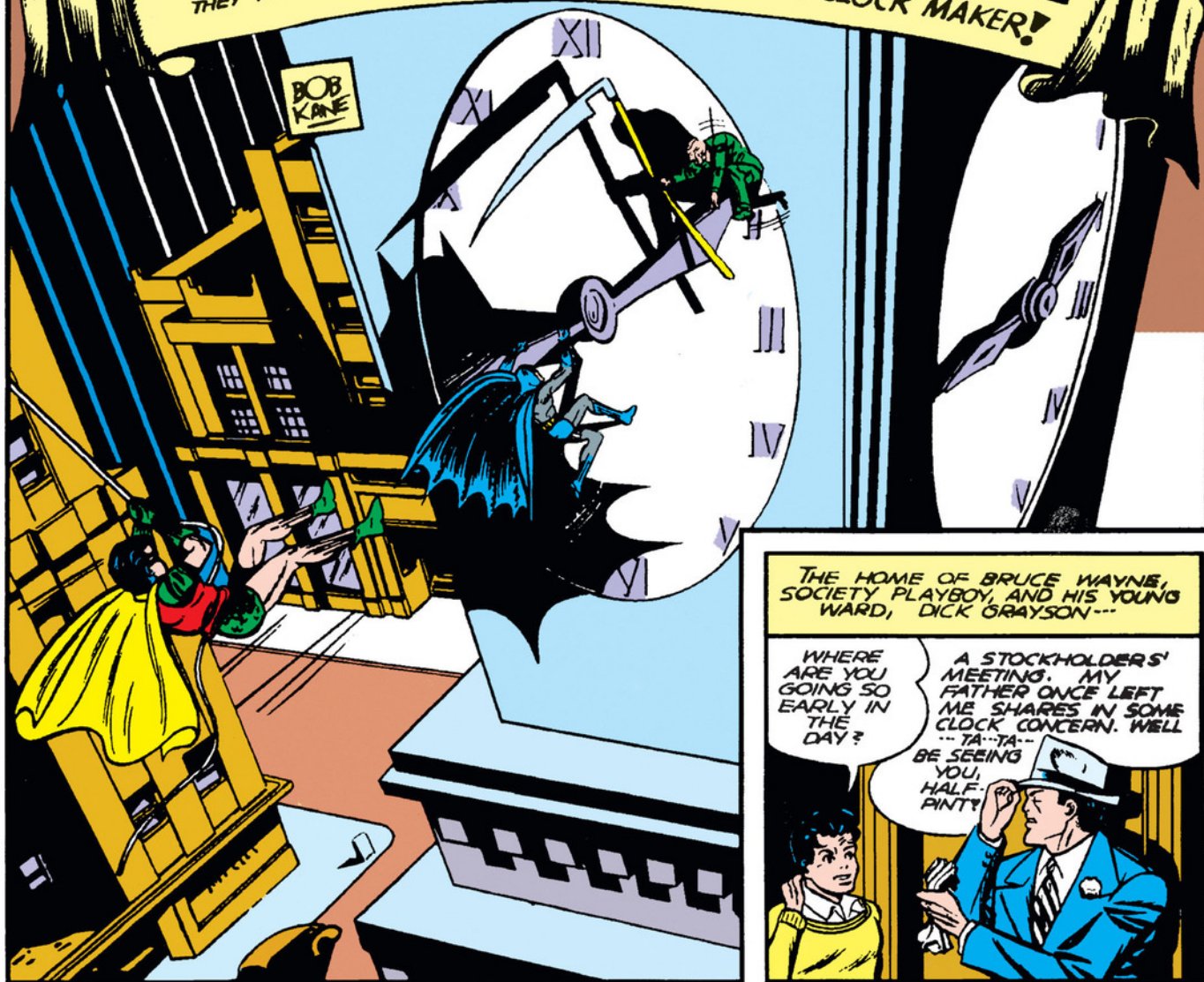
WELL, I SUPPOSE ALL THOSE MEN PAROLED BY THEIR BOSS WILL GO BACK TO JAIL? ALL EXCEPT MILLER? HE EARNED HIS PAROLE. YOU KNOW, IT'S EASY FOR MOST PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND CRIME DOESN'T PAY, BUT WHEN A CRIMINAL SUDDENLY REALIZES IT, AS MILLER DID, WELL, THAT'S ABOUT THE BEST MORAL LESSON THERE CAN BE!



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

HE WAS JUST A CLOCK MAKER--- AND HE CALLED THEM MURDERERS? WHY?...AND WHY DID PEOPLE DIE WHEN CLOCKS STRUCK THIRTEEN? WHY DID THE TOLLING OF THIRTEEN MEAN THE TOLLING OF THE DEATH-KNELL? THIS WAS THE PROBLEM THAT FACED THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER. BUT THEY FOUND OUT... THEY FOUND THE ANSWER ALMOST TOO LATE WHEN THEY THEMSELVES DISCOVERED THAT THEY TOO WERE MARKED FOR DEATH BY--- **THE CLOCK MAKER!**



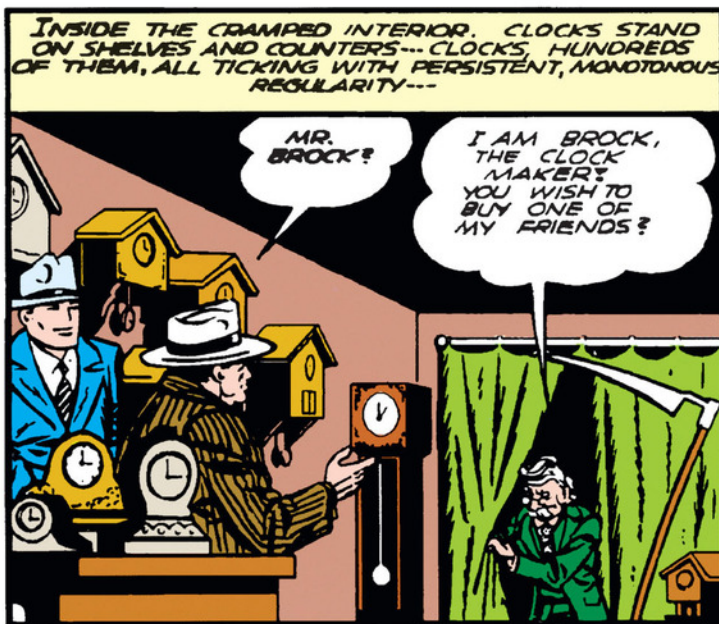
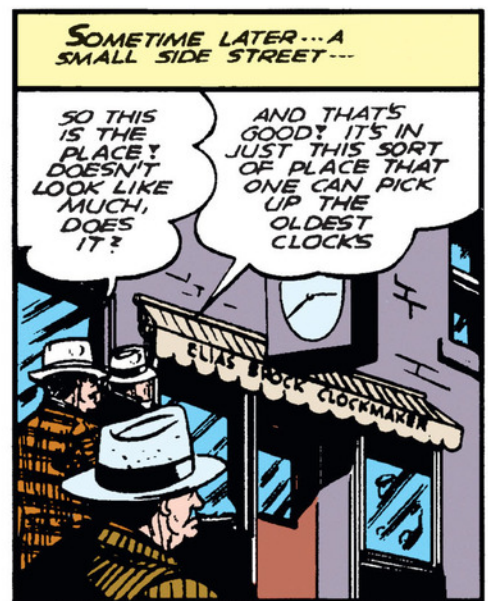
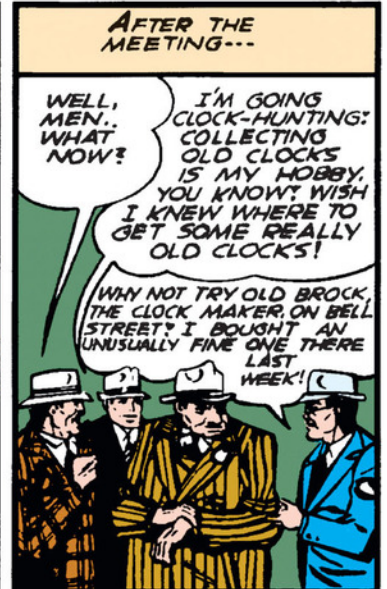
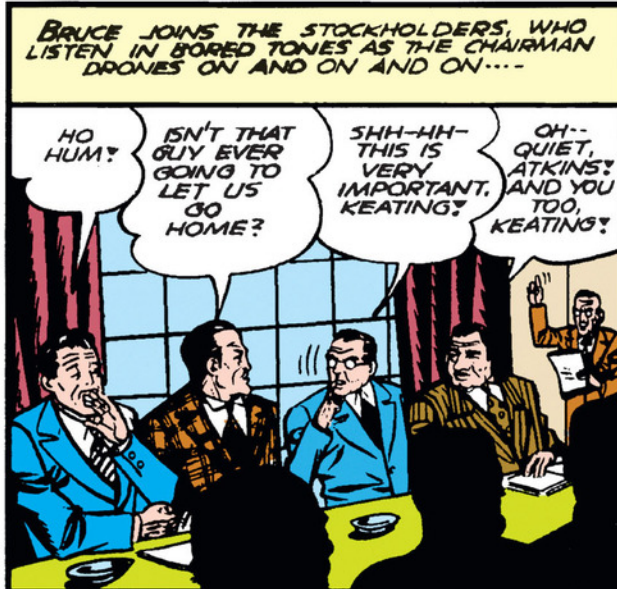
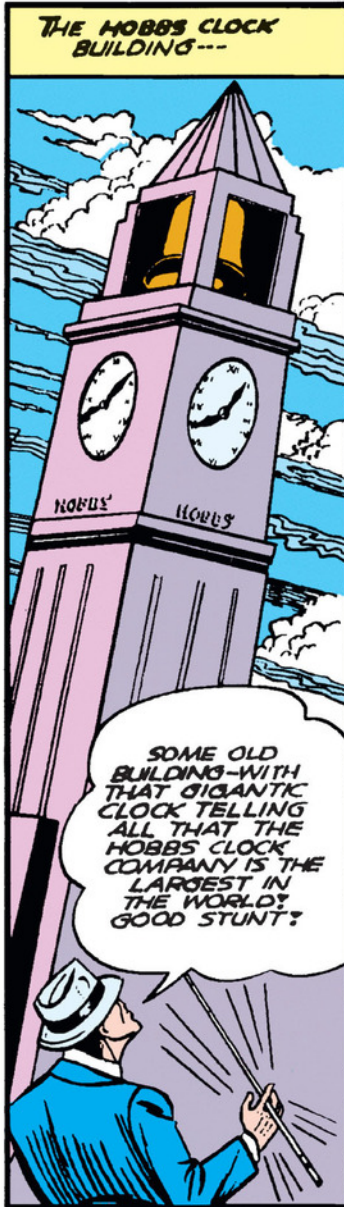
THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON---

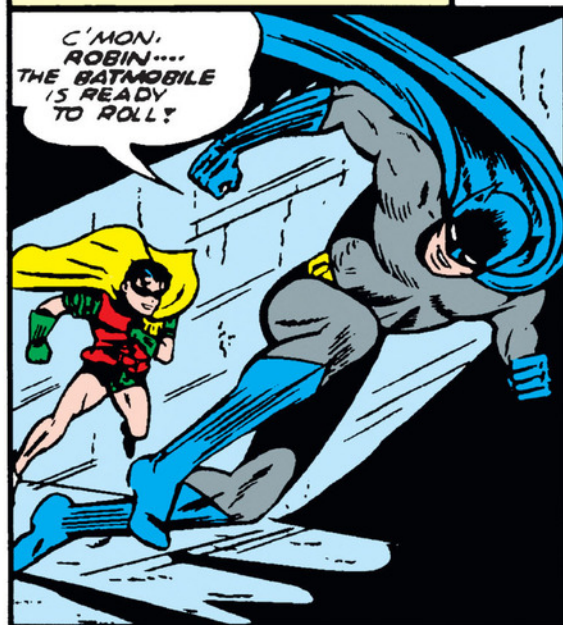
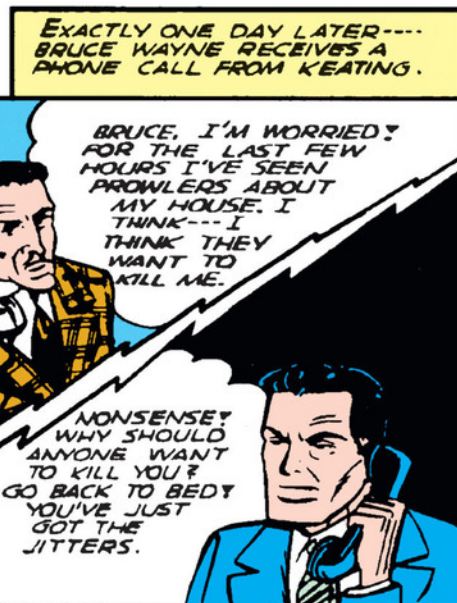
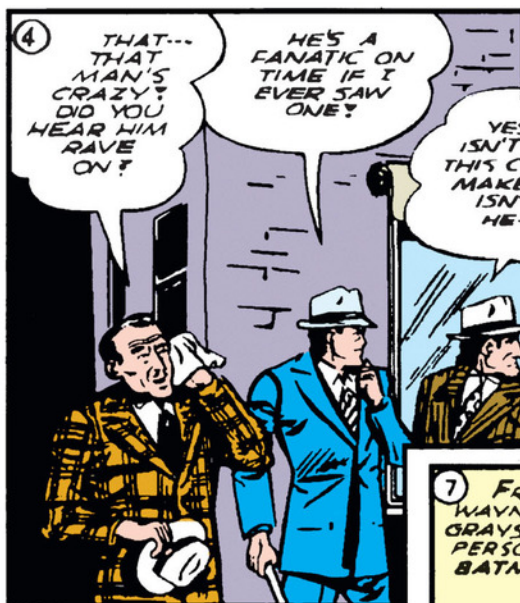
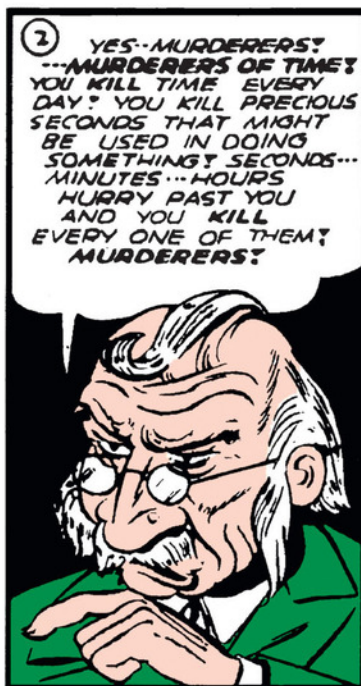
WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO EARLY IN THE DAY?

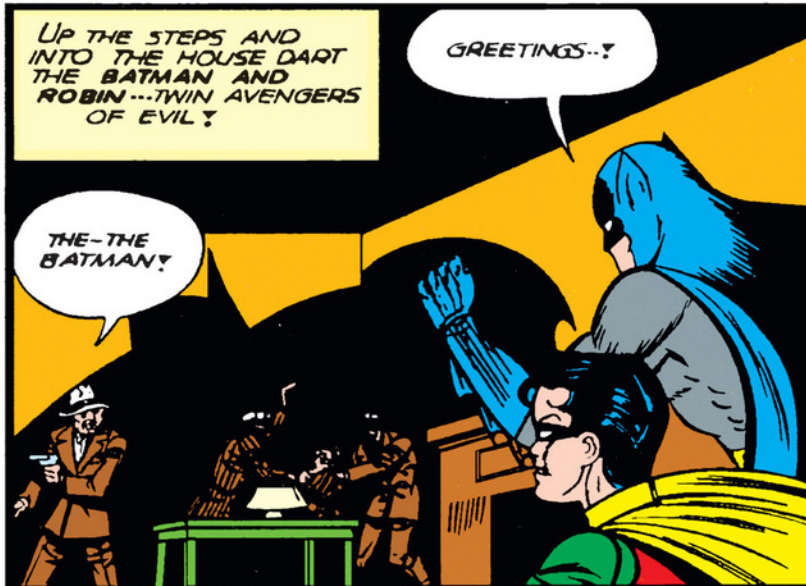
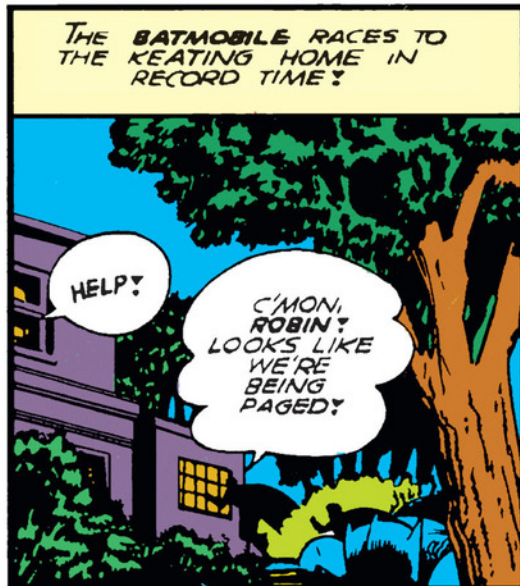
A STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING. MY FATHER ONCE LEFT ME SHARES IN SOME CLOCK CONCERN. WELL...

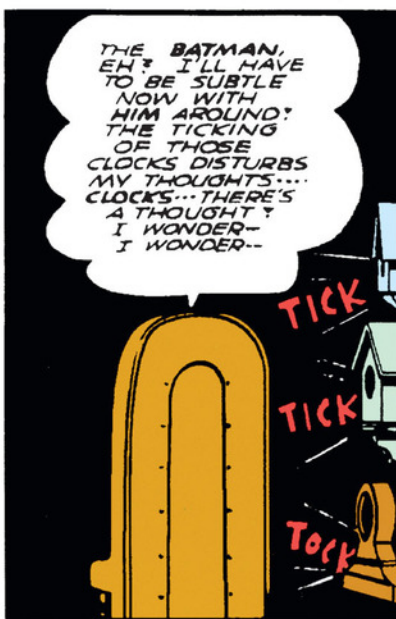
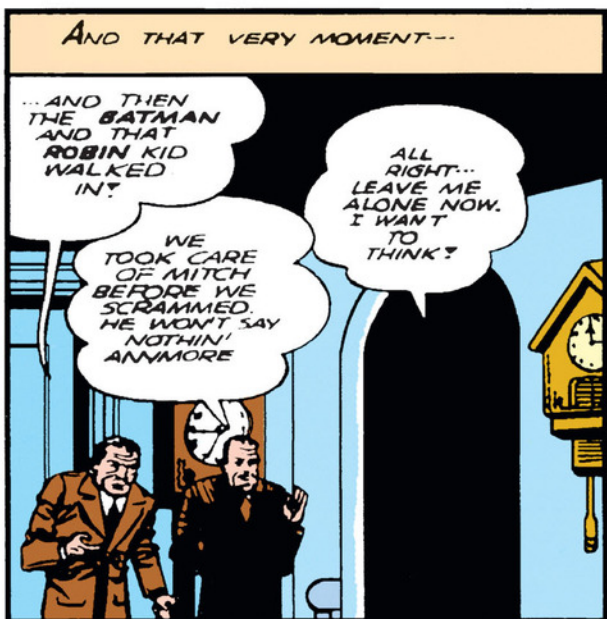
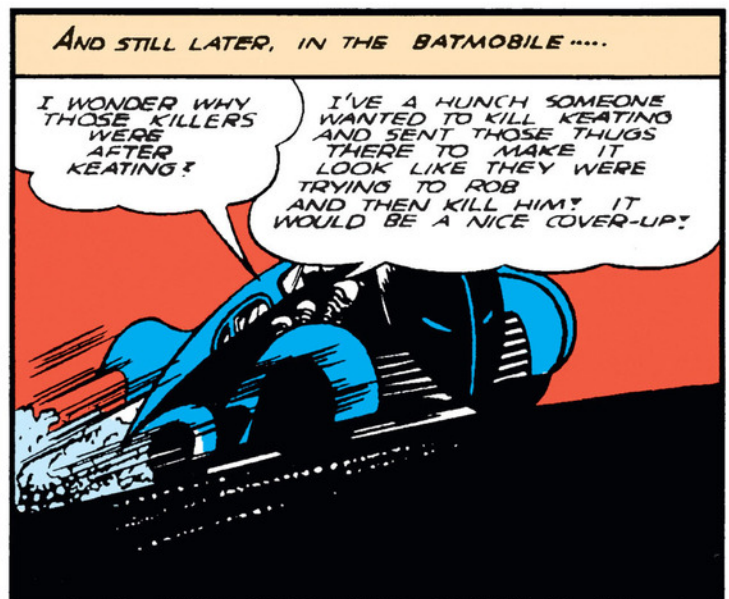
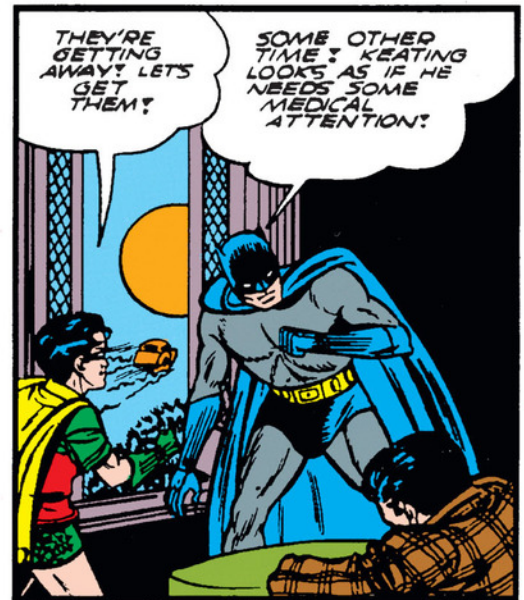
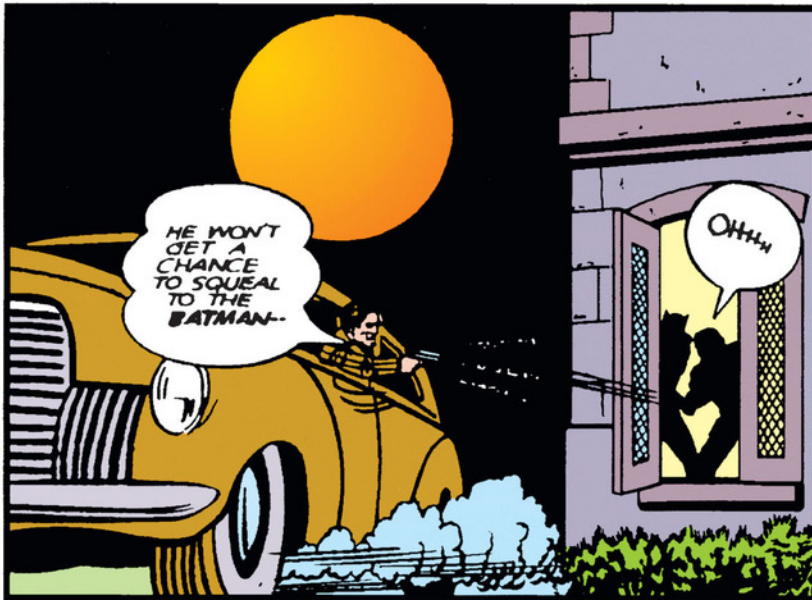
TA...TA... BE SEEING YOU, HALF-PINT!

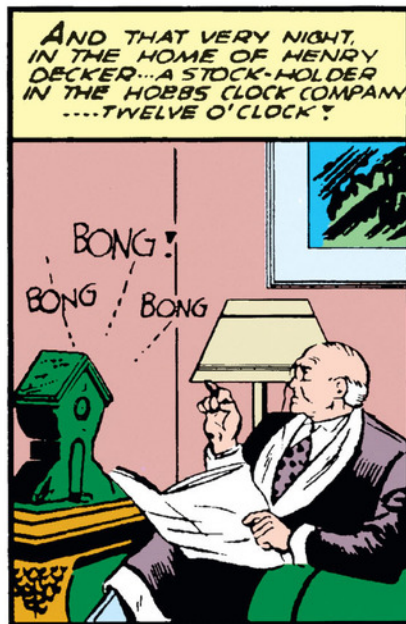
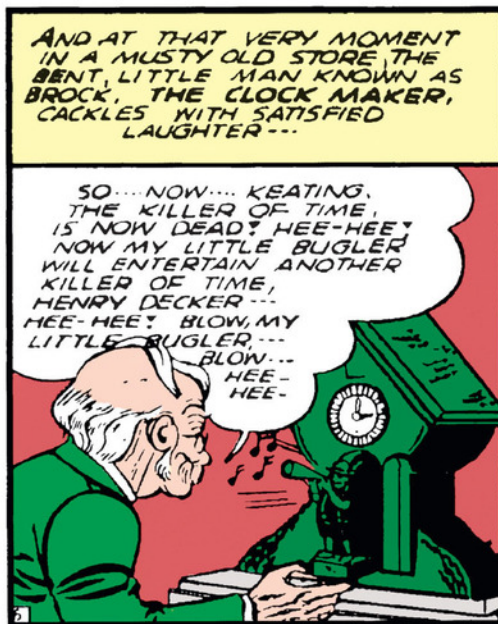
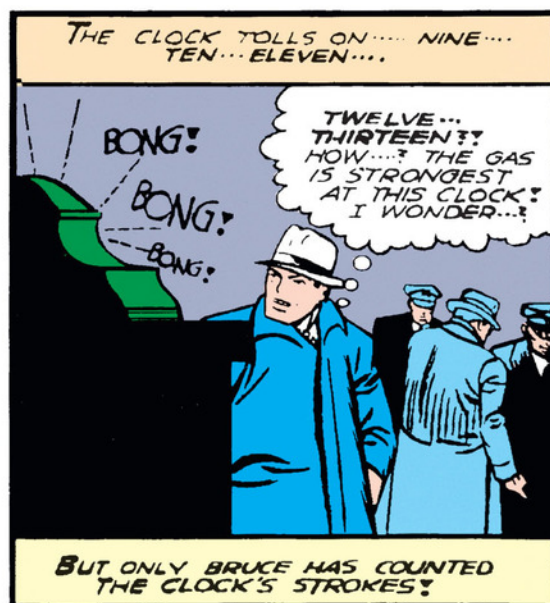
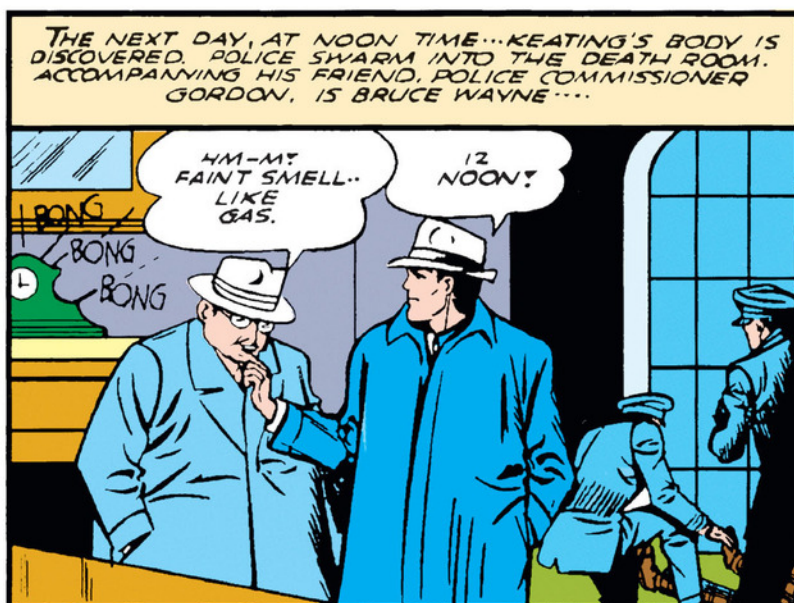












NOONTIME--THE NEXT DAY--
POLICE INVESTIGATE ANOTHER
MYSTERIOUS DEATH?

THAT'S
WHAT KILLED
HIM?

A DART--A TINY
DART--PROBABLY
WITH DEADLY
POISON ON IT?

I WONDER
WHO BLEW
THAT DART?
OH--TWELVE
O'CLOCK?

THE CLOCK TOLLS ON--
FOUR---FIVE---SIX---
SEVEN---EIGHT?

NINE---TEN---ELEVEN---
TWELVE---

THIRTEEN...
LIKE THE
OTHER ONE...

LOOK! THERE'S
YOUR MURDERER!
THAT LITTLE
BUGLER!

WHA--
YOU'RE
CRAZY?

CRAZY, AM I?
HERE-- THIS
BUGLER BLEW
THE DART WHEN
THE CLOCK READ
MIDNIGHT? DECKER
HAD A HABIT OF
READING IN THIS
CHAIR TILL LATE
AT NIGHT?

OF COURSE, AND
OUR MURDERER
KNEW THAT? HE
KNEW DECKER'S
HEAD WOULD BE IN
LINE WITH THE CLOCK?
WHY--OUR MURDERER
MUST BE A
CLEVER DEVIL?

AND IN HIS DINGY STORE, THE CLOCK
MAKER LAUGHS GLEEFULLY AS HUNDRED
OF CLOCKS CHIME AT ONCE.

HEE--HEE? THAT'S
RIGHT-- THAT'S
RIGHT? THIS CLOCK
IS FOR A MAN
WHO KILLS TIME--
THIS CLOCK IS
FOR BRUCE WAYNE!
HEE--HEE--
HEE--

AND
BRUCE WAYNE
IS THE
BATMAN?

THAT VERY NIGHT AS THE
MIDNIGHT HOUR DRAWS CLOSE,
THE LOUD DANGLE OF A DOOR-
BELL BRINGS DICK GRAYSON
TO THE DOOR OF THE WAYNE
HOME.

PACKAGE
FOR YA?

THANK
YOU?

IT'S A
CLOCK?
NOW WHY
SHOULD
ANYONE SEND
US A
CLOCK?

THE CLOCK TOLLS THE
HOUR---MIDNIGHT?

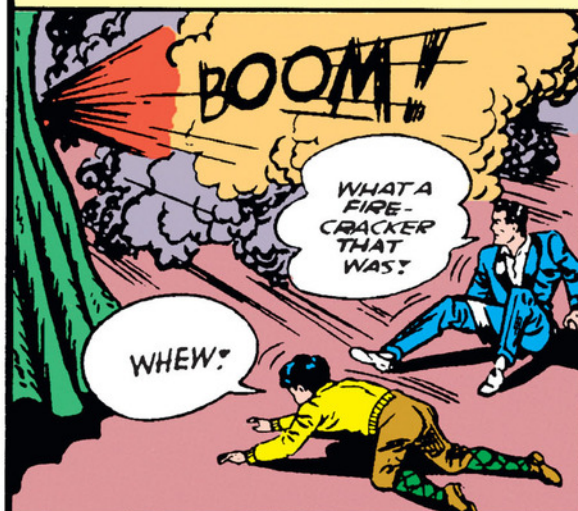
BONG!
BONG
BONG

FOUR--FIVE---SIX---SEVEN---
EIGHT--

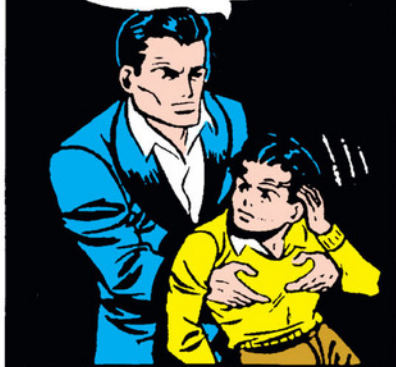
SUDDENLY, A FIGURE HURTLIES INTO THE ROOM--PICKS UP THE CLOCK--AND---



NINE--TEN--ELEVEN--TWELVE--THIRTEEN-- THEN--A THUNDEROUS BLAST DEAFENS THE NIGHT?

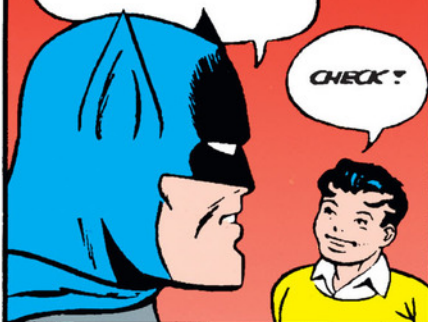


GOOD THING I HEARD THAT CLOCK START TO CHIME. I KNEW WE HAD NO CLOCKS LIKE THAT! LOOKS LIKE SOME-BODY DOESN'T LIKE US, EH, KID?



THE VERY NEXT NIGHT? ONCE AGAIN BRUCE WAYNE DONS THE INK-HUED GARB OF THE BATMAN?

NOW REMEMBER-- IF I'M NOT BACK WITHIN THE HOUR, COME AND GET ME?



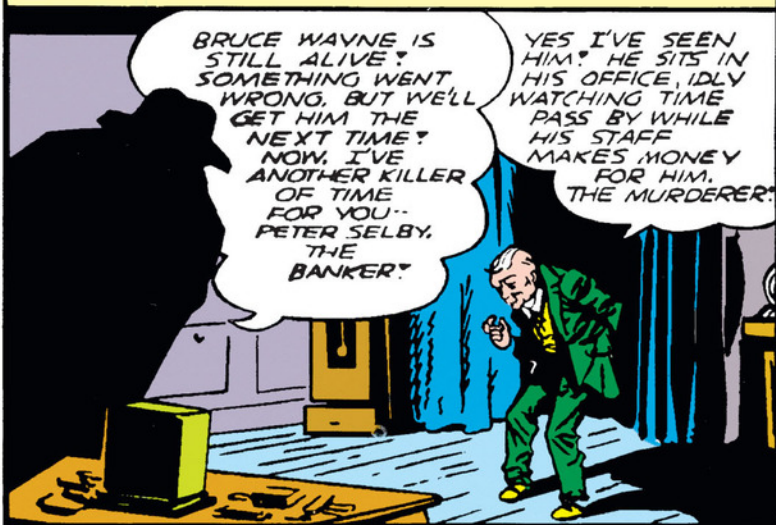
SOMETIME LATER - THE BATMAN'S CAPED FIGURE BENDS OVER A FILING CABINET?

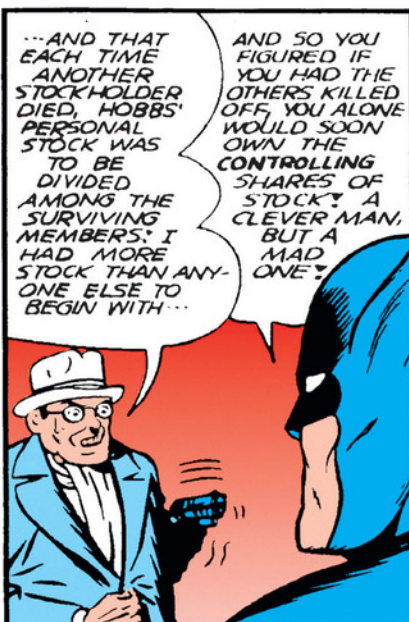
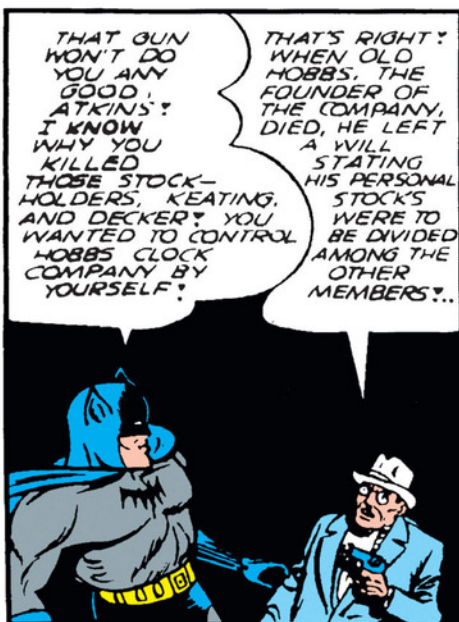
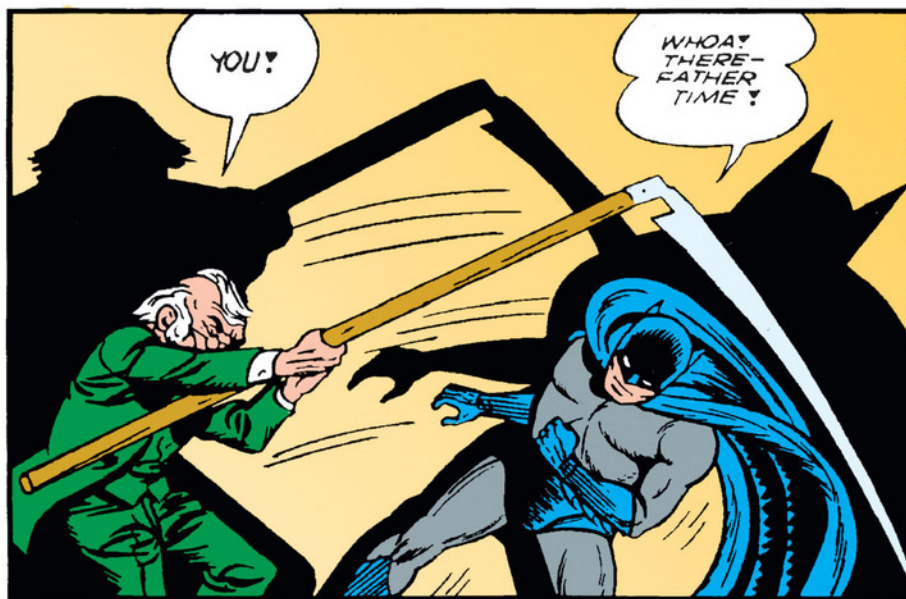
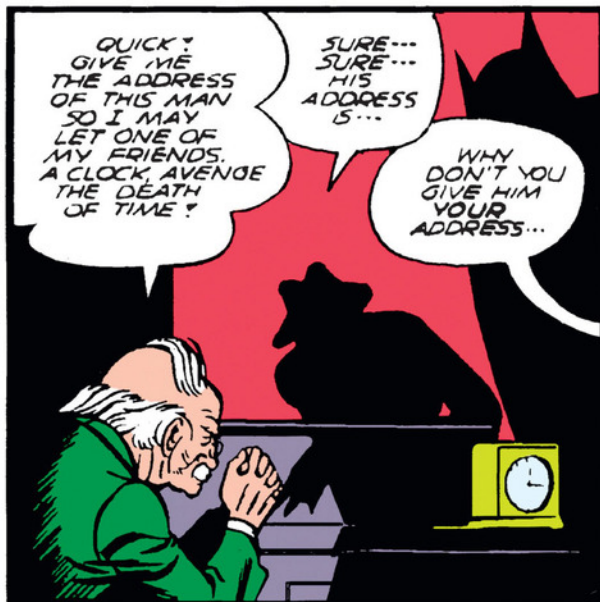


THE BATMAN PHONES THE BANKER, SELBY--

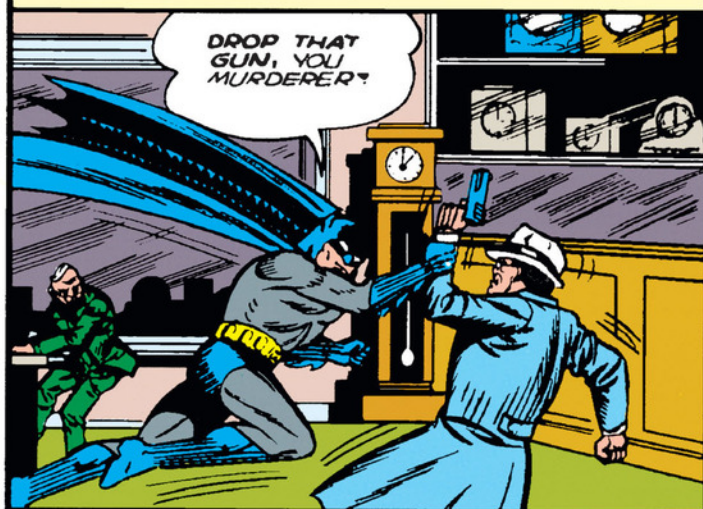


AND IN THE CRAMPED INTERIOR OF HIS LITTLE SHOP, THE CLOCK MAKER LISTENS INTENTLY TO A MAN WHO SPEAKS TO HIM--





WITH ONE CAT-LIKE BOUND, THE BATMAN IS UPON ATKINS!



THE GUN GOES OFF...AND THE BULLET FINDS ITS MARK!



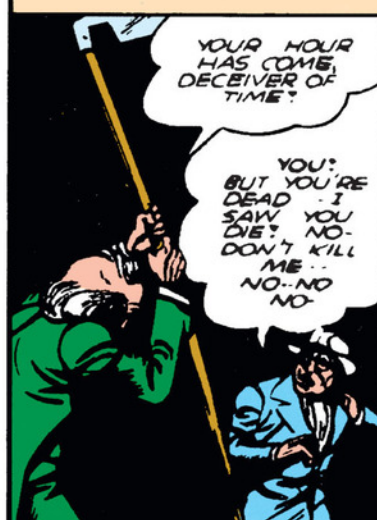
AS THE BATMAN, HORRIFIED, WATCHES OLD BROCK DROP TO THE FLOOR, HE LEAVES HIMSELF OFF-GUARD FOR THE MOMENT AND --



ATKINS BINDS THE BATMAN WITH ROPE!



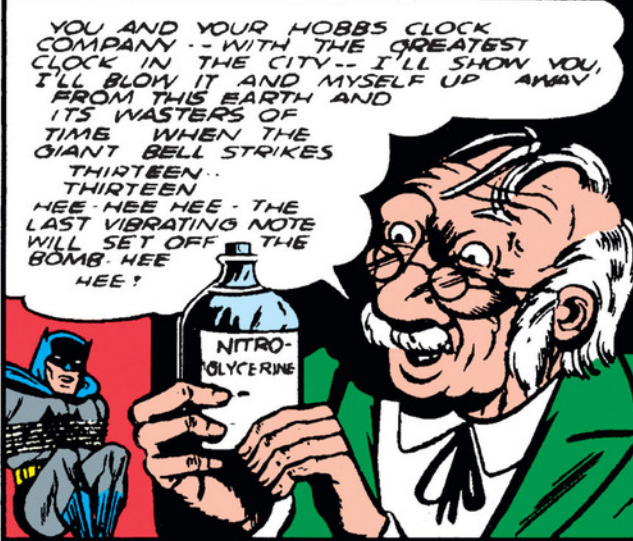
SUDDENLY, A VOICE WHIRLS ATKINS ABOUT!



A SHRIEK IS SUDDENLY CUT OFF: DEATH HAS COME TO ATKINS!



AS THE MADMAN RAVES ON - THE BATMAN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS



DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS BONDS----

THAT MADMAN WILL NOT ONLY BLOW UP THE HOBBS BUILDING WITH ALL THAT TNT, BUT ALSO HALF THE TOWN! I'VE GOT TO GET FREE---I'VE GOT TO!



BUT TIME PASSES QUICKLY AND THE TICKING CLOCKS SEEM TO MOCK HIS VERY EFFORTS!

AND WHEN THE BATMAN HAS JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE...

ROBIN! HURRY! GET THESE ROPES OFF ME!

RIGHT! WHEN YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP I RACED OVER HERE WITH THE BATMOBILE, JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO!



A SUDDEN ROAR----AND THE BATMOBILE RACES NECK AND NECK WITH TIME!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? IT'S ONLY TEN O'CLOCK AND THE BELL WON'T STRIKE THIRTEEN TILL TWELVE, ACCORDING TO THE OTHER MURDERS.

NOT THIS TIME! OUR CLOCK MAKER FRIEND INTENDS TO SET THE CLOCK SO THAT IT WILL STRIKE THIRTEEN AT EXACTLY TEN O'CLOCK! AND WE'VE GOT EXACTLY TWO MINUTES TILL TEN!



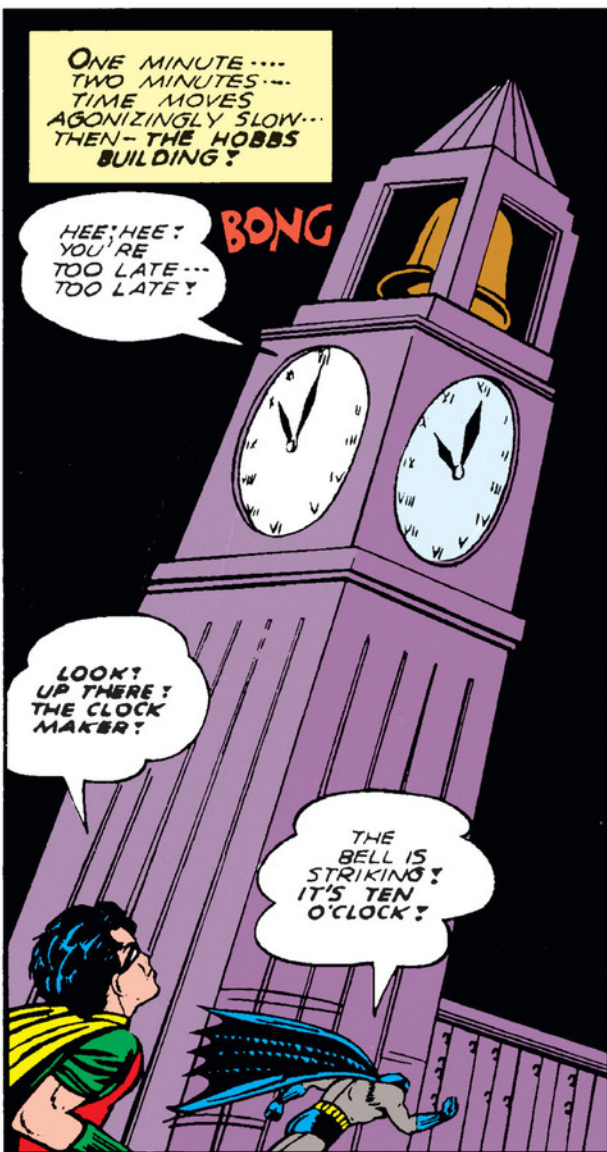
ONE MINUTE.... TWO MINUTES... TIME MOVES AGONIZINGLY SLOW... THEN-- THE HOBBS BUILDING!

HEE'HEE! YOU'RE TOO LATE--- TOO LATE!

BONG

LOOK! UP THERE! THE CLOCK MAKER!

THE BELL IS STRIKING! IT'S TEN O'CLOCK!

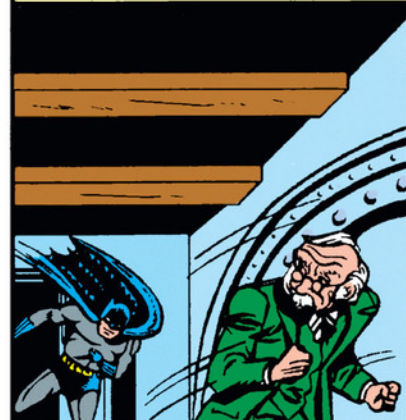


A TERRIBLE SOUND SHATTERS THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT. IT IS THE BELL TOLLING OUT THE HOUR! ONE!

A SHARP COMMAND TO ROBIN AND THE BATMAN DARTS INTO AN ELEVATOR WHOSE SWIFT ASCENT SEEMS INCREDIBLY SLOW, AS THE GIANT BELLS TOLL TWO!



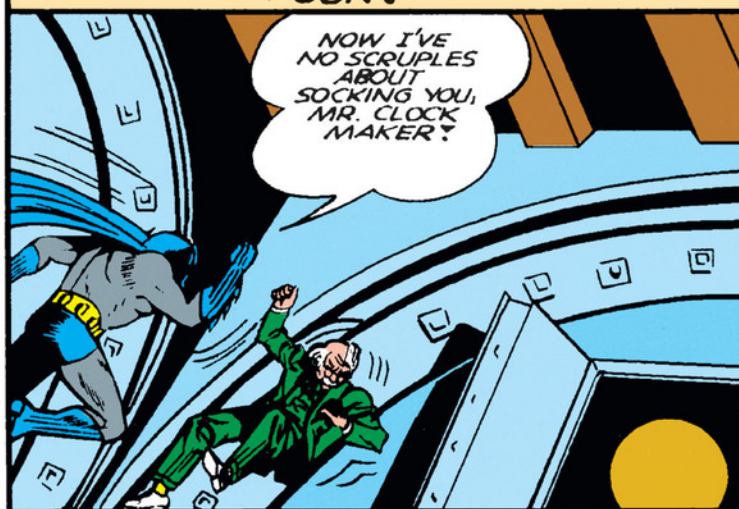
AND THE BATMAN GAINS THE SMALL ROOM SET IN THE CLOCK ITSELF!



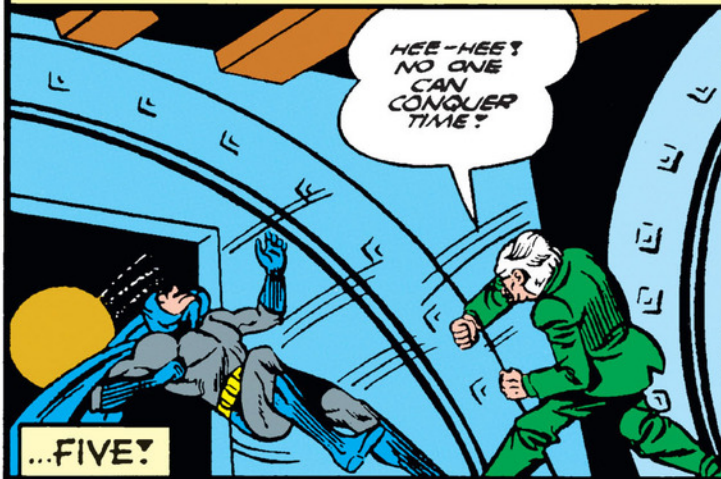
...AS THE BELL SWINGS AND TOLLS--THREE!

AND NOW IT IS A FIGHT AGAINST THE INEXORABLE ADVANCE OF TIME ITSELF, AS BELOW, TWO MEN BATTLE, AND ABOVE, THE PONDEROUS BELL CLANGS FOUR!

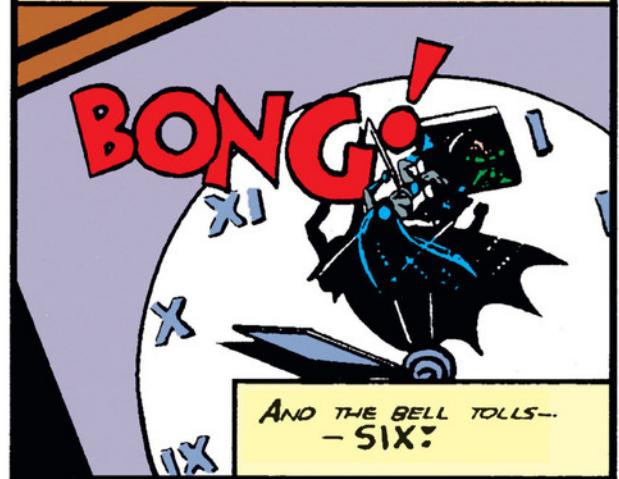
NOW I'VE NO SCRUPLES ABOUT SOCKING YOU, MR. CLOCK MAKER!



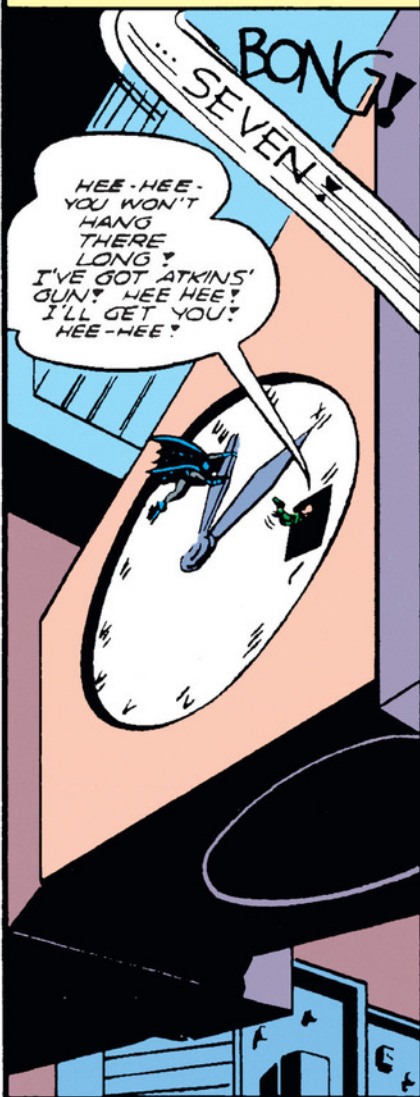
BUT THE CLOCK MAKER HAS GONE UTTERLY MAD, AND FIGHTS WITH A MADMAN'S FURY AND STRENGTH! A WICKED BLOW SENDS THE SURPRISED BATMAN REELING --- TO THE OPEN DOOR'S EDGE!



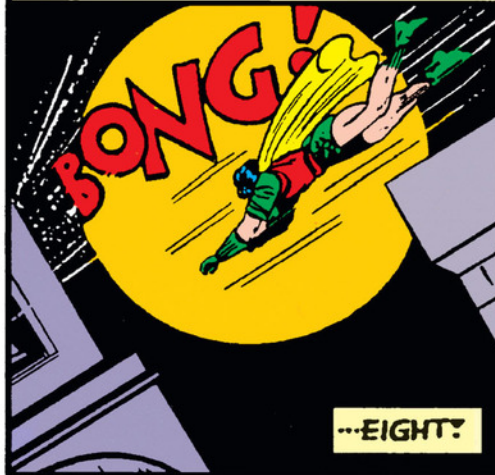
FOR A MOMENT, THE BATMAN TEETERS ON THE VERY EDGE, CLAWING AT THE EMPTY AIR FOR BALANCE, THEN DROPS!



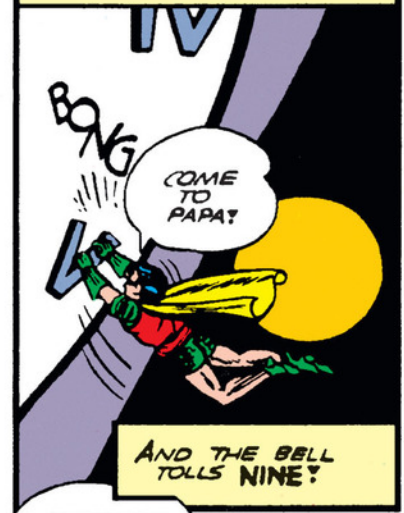
BUT EVEN AS HE DROPS, THE BATMAN MAKES A DESPERATE CLUTCH FOR LIFE-- HIS HAND CLOSES VISE-LIKE ABOUT THE HOUR HAND-- AND HOLDS??



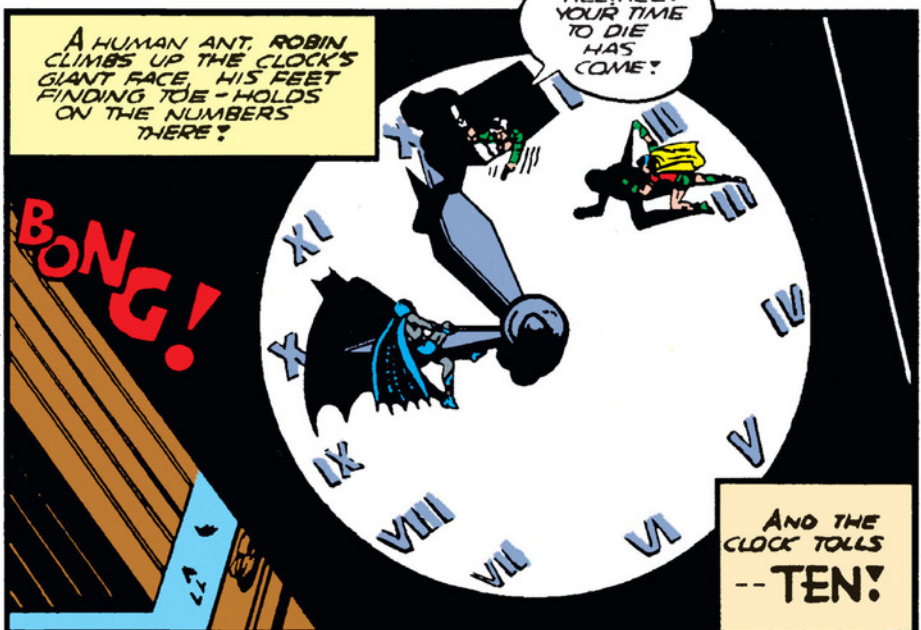
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, A SMALL FIGURE IS SEEN LEAPING THROUGH THE YAWNING CHASM OF SPACE THAT SEPARATES A NEARBY BUILDING FROM THE CLOCK FACE!



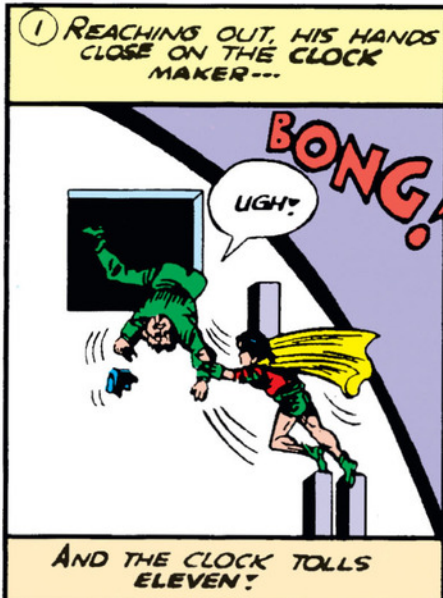
SMALL HANDS SNATCH AT A PROTRUDING CLOCK NUMBER?



A HUMAN ANT, ROBIN CLIMBS UP THE CLOCK'S GIANT FACE, HIS FEET FINDING TOE - HOLDS ON THE NUMBERS THERE?



① REACHING OUT, HIS HANDS CLOSE ON THE CLOCK MAKER---



UGH?

BONG!

AND THE CLOCK TOLLS ELEVEN?

② WHO FALLS WITH A TRAILING SHRIEK AS THE BELL TOLLS-- TWELVE --



BONG!


③ AND NOW THE TWIN BATTTLERS OF CRIME RACE UP TO THE BELFRY ITSELF AS THE GIANT BELL SWINGS PONDEROUSLY... ITS HUGE CLAPPER READY TO CRASH FOR A FINAL CLANG-- AND SHATTERING DEATH?



THE BELL IS ABOUT TO STRIKE THIRTEEN! WE'LL BE BLOWN TO BITS!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

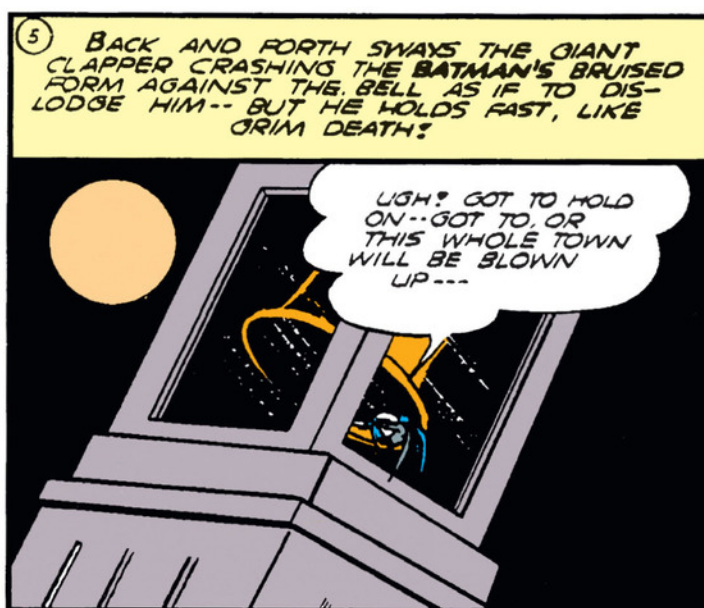
④ AND THE BATMAN'S BODY WINDS ABOUT THE GIANT CLAPPER AS IT CRASHES WITH SICKENING FORCE AGAINST THE GREAT BELL---



UGH?

THE BATMAN'S BODY ACTS AS A BUFFER! THE DEAFENING VIBRATION THAT IS TO SET OFF THE DEADLY T.N.T. DOES NOT COME!

⑤ BACK AND FORTH SWAYS THE GIANT CLAPPER CRASHING THE BATMAN'S BRUISED FORM AGAINST THE BELL AS IF TO DISLodge HIM-- BUT HE HOLDS FAST, LIKE GRIM DEATH?



UGH? GOT TO HOLD ON--GOT TO, OR THIS WHOLE TOWN WILL BE BLOWN UP---

AT LAST, THE CLAPPER SWAYS NO MORE. ROBIN HAS FOUND THE MECHANISM THAT STOPS THE BELL'S GIANT SWING?

LATER, A SLEEK, VEHICLE BEARS AWAY TWO HEROIC FIGURES-- BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?

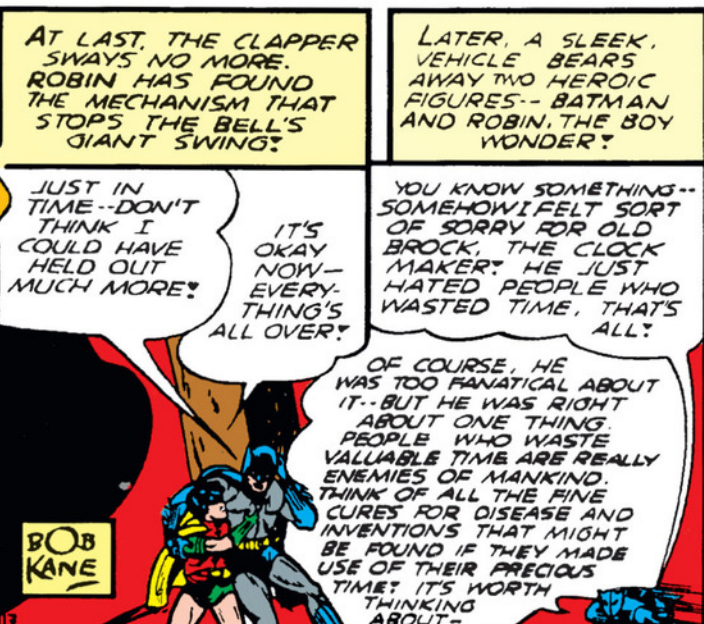
JUST IN TIME--DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE HELD OUT MUCH MORE!

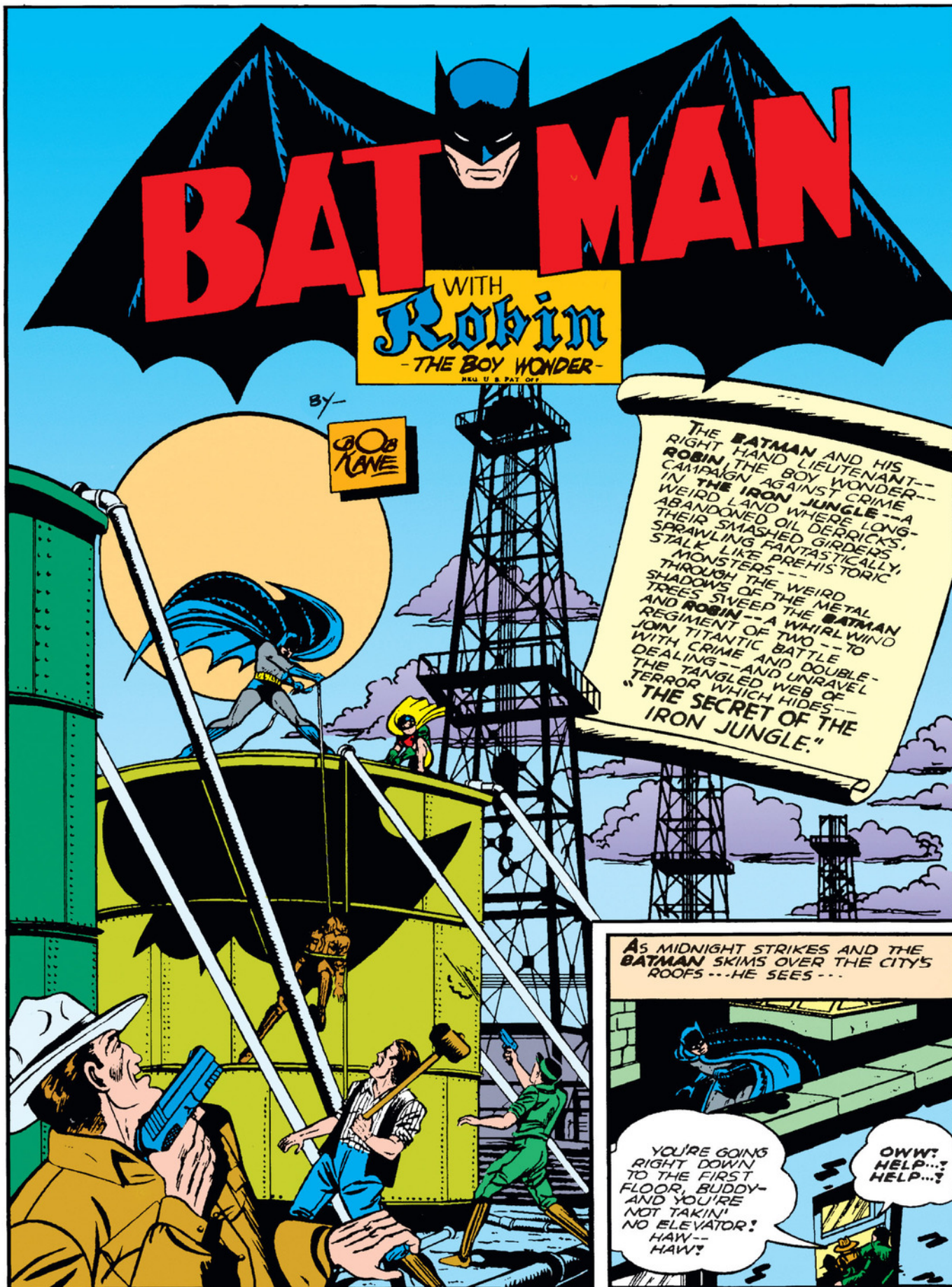
IT'S OKAY NOW--EVERYTHING'S ALL OVER?

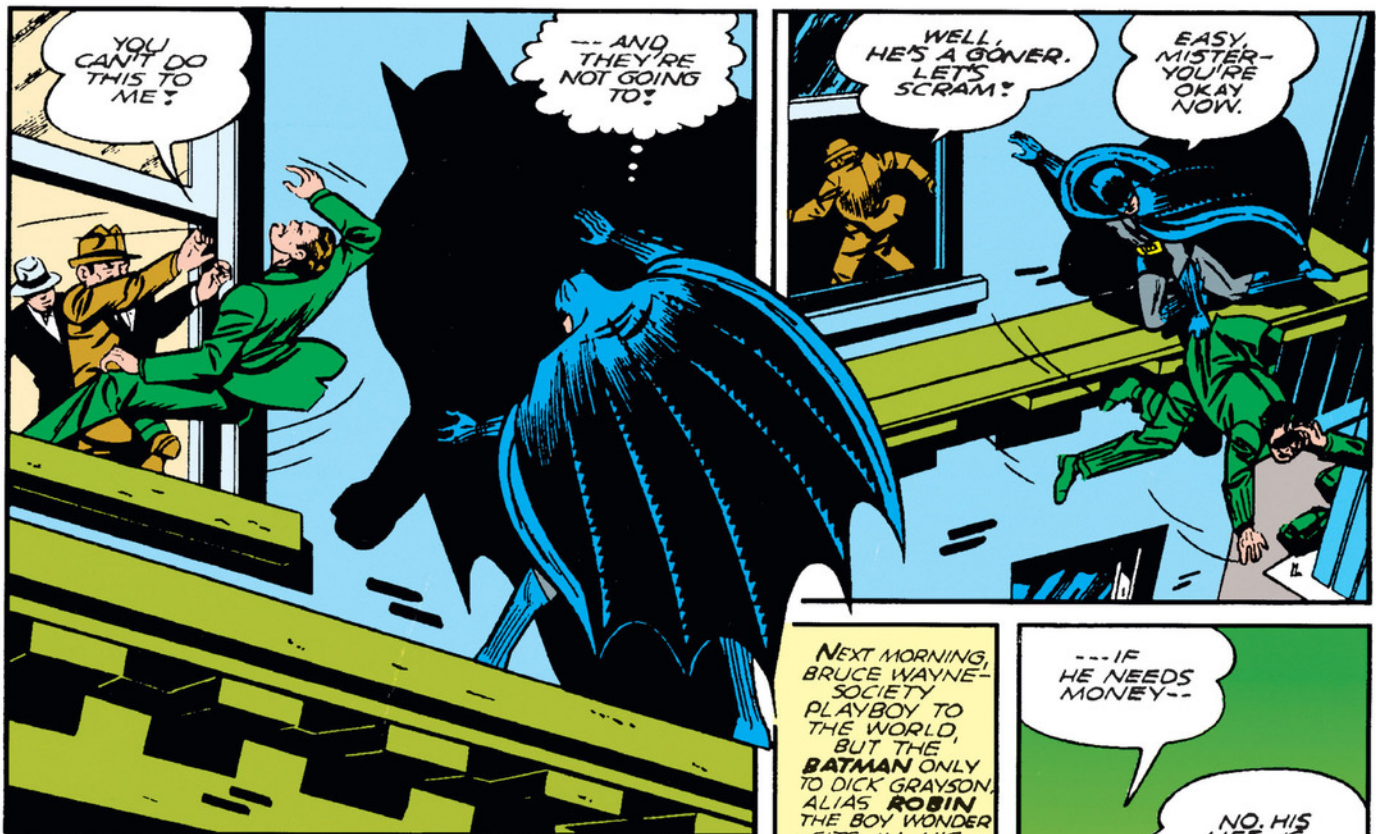
YOU KNOW SOMETHING--SOMEHOW I FELT SORT OF SORRY FOR OLD BROCK, THE CLOCK MAKER? HE JUST HATED PEOPLE WHO WASTED TIME, THAT'S ALL?

OF COURSE, HE WAS TOO FANATICAL ABOUT IT--BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. PEOPLE WHO WASTE VALUABLE TIME ARE REALLY ENEMIES OF MANKIND. THINK OF ALL THE FINE CURES FOR DISEASE AND INVENTIONS THAT MIGHT BE FOUND IF THEY MADE USE OF THEIR PRECIOUS TIME? IT'S WORTH THINKING ABOUT--

BOB KANE







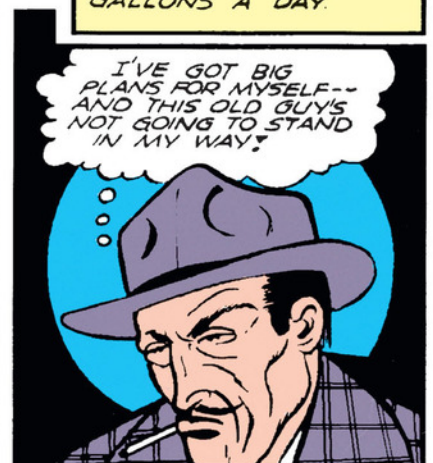
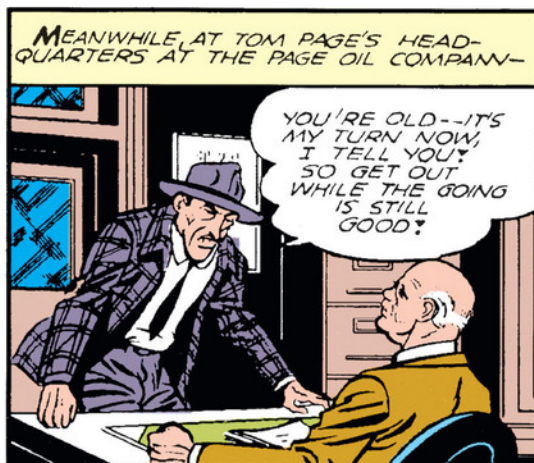
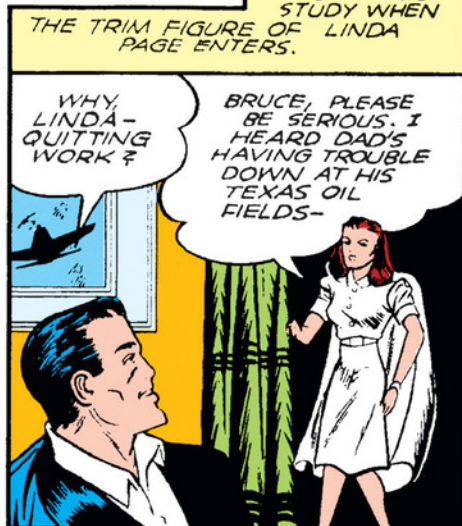
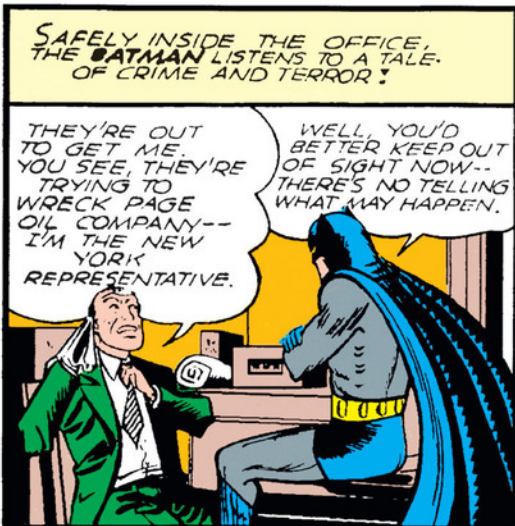
NEXT MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE-- SOCIETY PLAYBOY TO THE WORLD, BUT THE **BATMAN** ONLY TO DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER-- SITS IN HIS STUDY WHEN

--- IF HE NEEDS MONEY---

NO, HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER! EVER SINCE THAT GUSHER WAS EXPECTED--



NOTE
A GUSHER IS A MONSTER SPOUT OF OIL THAT OFTEN BRINGS UNTOLD WEALTH-- SHOOTING THOUSANDS OF FEET FROM BELOW THE EARTH, HUNDREDS OF FEET INTO THE AIR. GUSHERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO POUR OUT OIL AT THE RATE OF TWO MILLION GALLONS A DAY.



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LINDA IS TELLING BRUCE WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON--



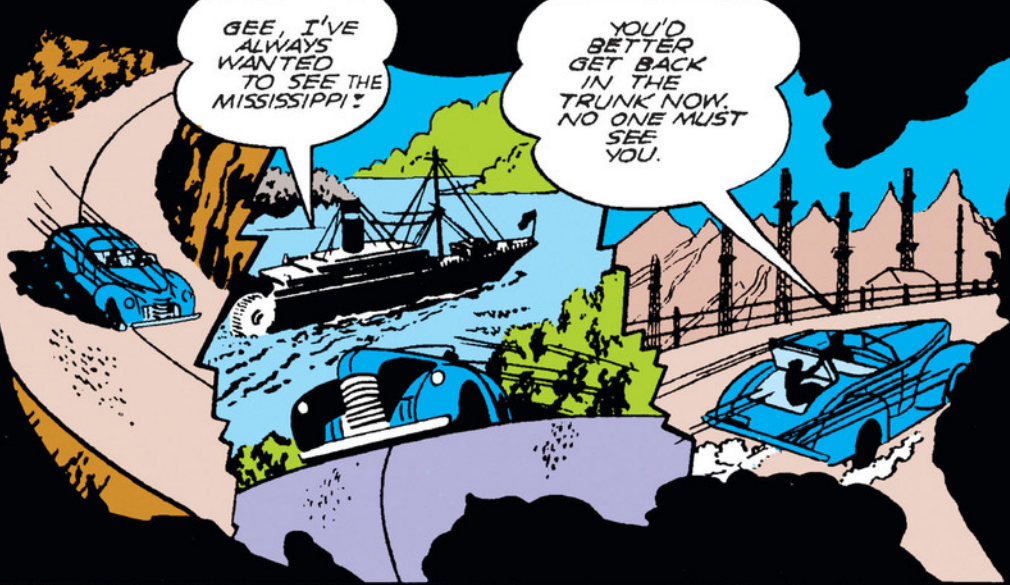
CHATTING CASUALLY THROUGH THE LIPS OF BRUCE WAYNE--OUR PLAYBOY PLANS RAPIDLY WITH THE SUREFIRE BRAIN OF THE BATMAN?



NO SOONER HAS LINDA LEFT THAN DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, DARTS INTO THE ROOM---



OVER THE RUGGED APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS--DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE SLUGGISH MISSISSIPPI RIVER--ACROSS THOUSANDS OF MILES TO THE OIL FIELDS OF TEXAS SPEED BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON TO SWING THEIR FISTS IN NEW KNOCKOUT BLOWS AT THE JAWS OF CRIME?

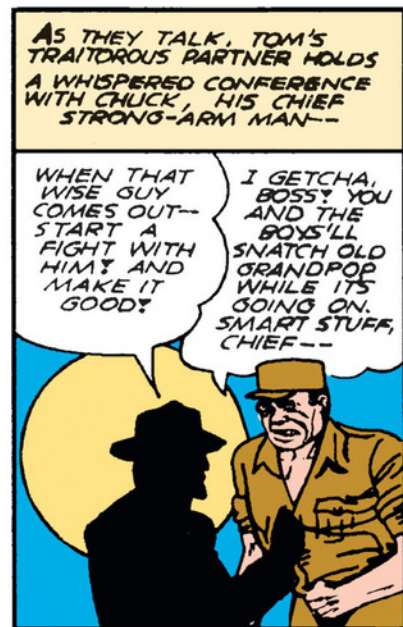
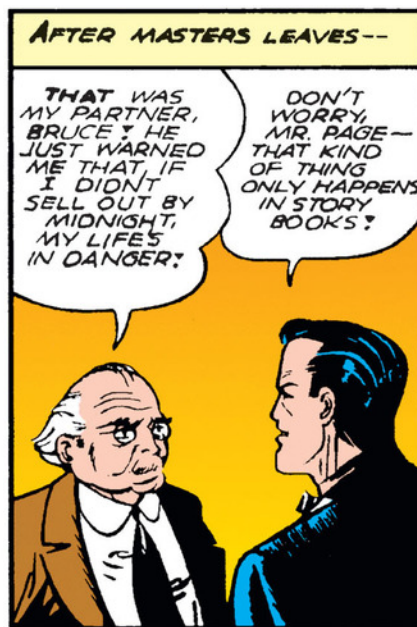


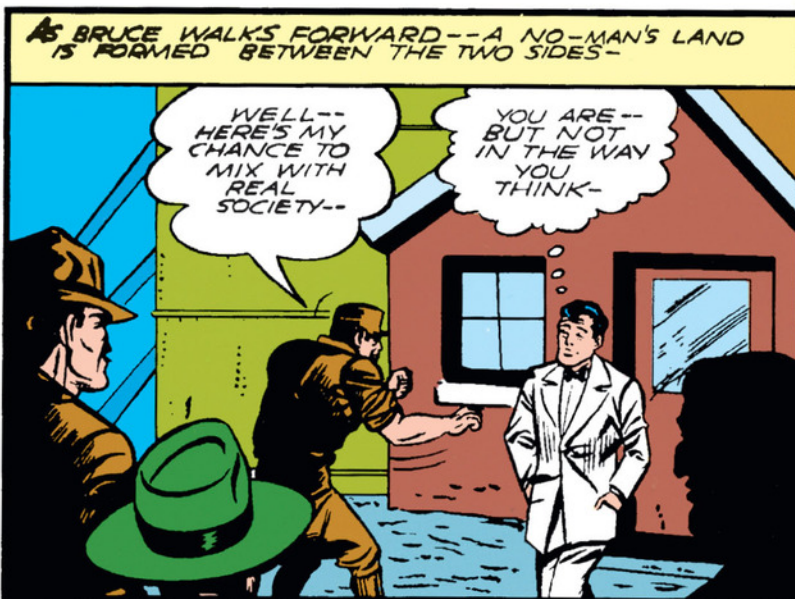
A DRAMATIC SCENE AWAITS BRUCE AS HIS SWIFT AUTOMOBILE SLIDES BY THE ENTRANCE OF THE PAGE OIL COMPANY.



....AND ANYTHING DOES!







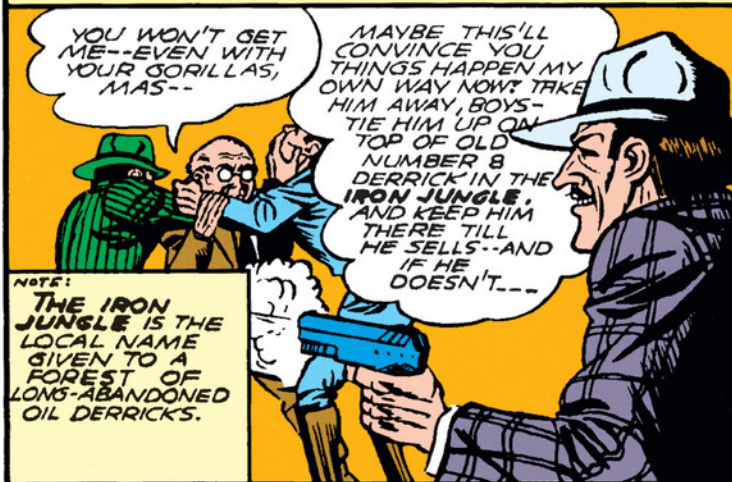
CHUCK IS MADE TO LOOK RIDICULOUS BEFORE HIS OWN MEN--



BRUCE'S STRATAGEM WORKS--CHUCK, INFURIATED, WADES INTO HIS OWN MEN!



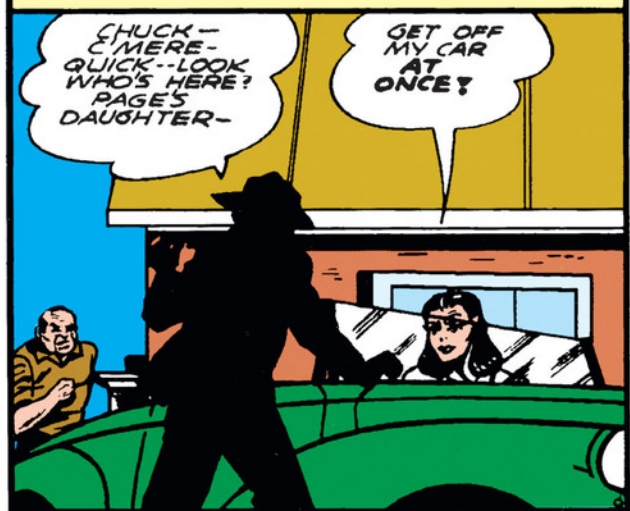
BUT AS BRUCE TEACHES CHUCK SOME MANNERS, GRAHAM MASTERS SNEAKS INTO TOM PAGE'S OFFICE-- THIS TIME HE BRINGS A BODYGUARD OF FOUR, ARMED HENCHMEN--

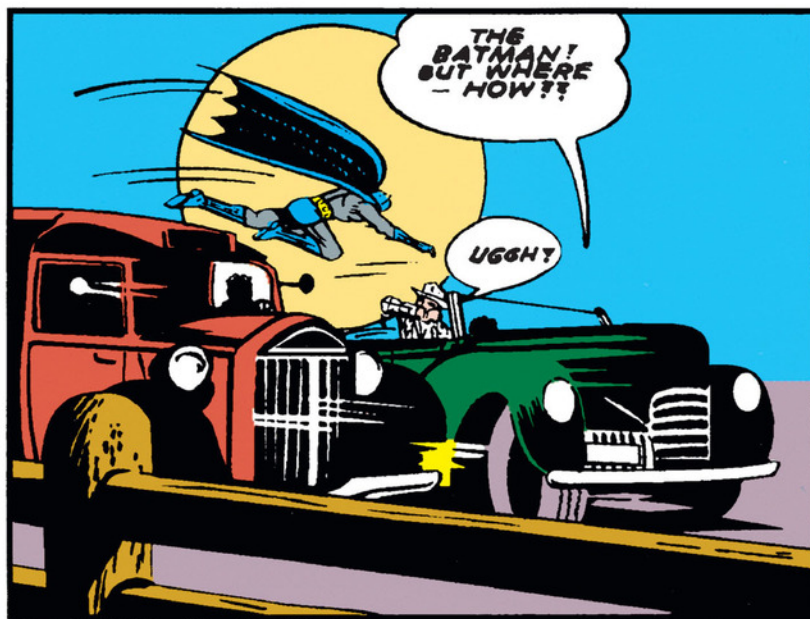
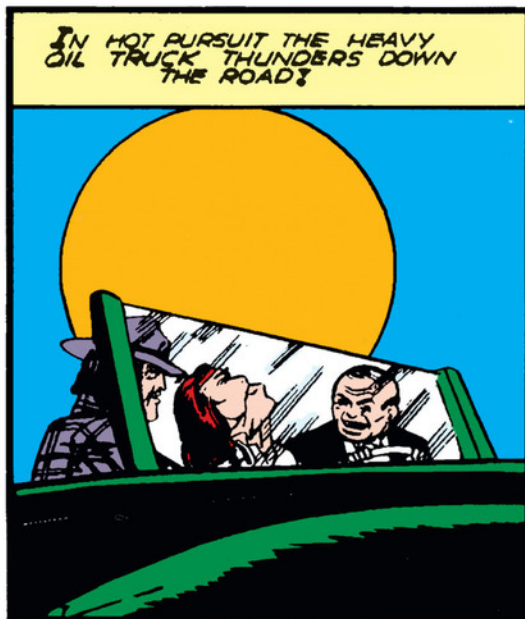
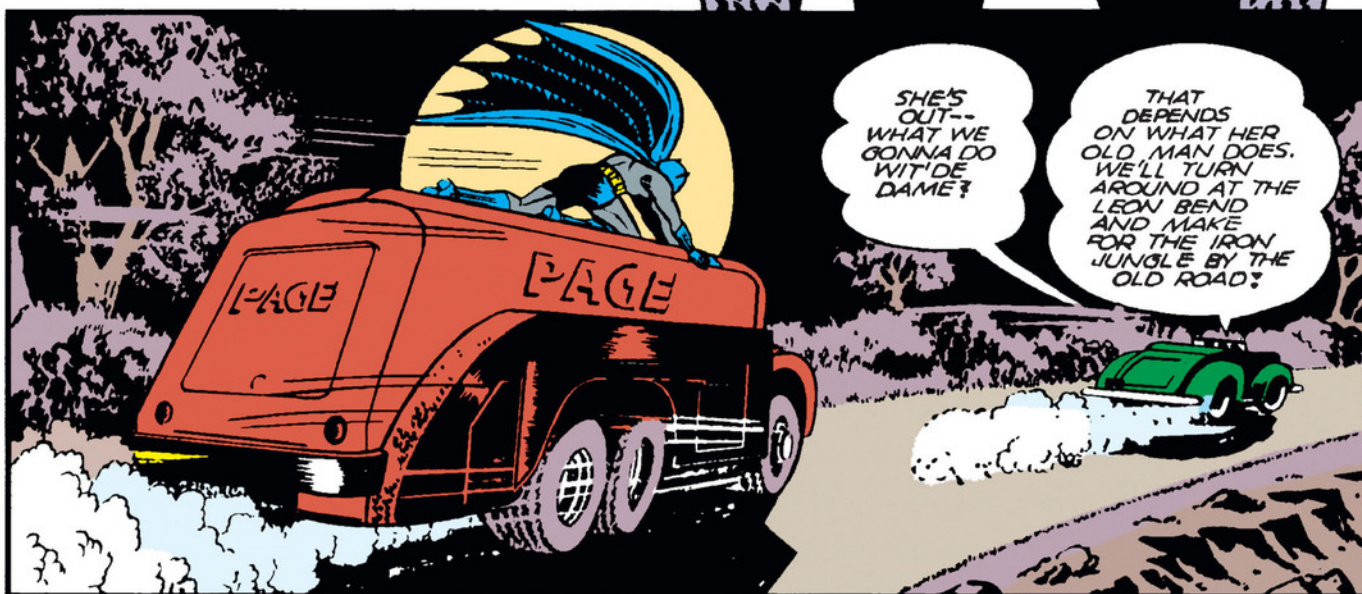
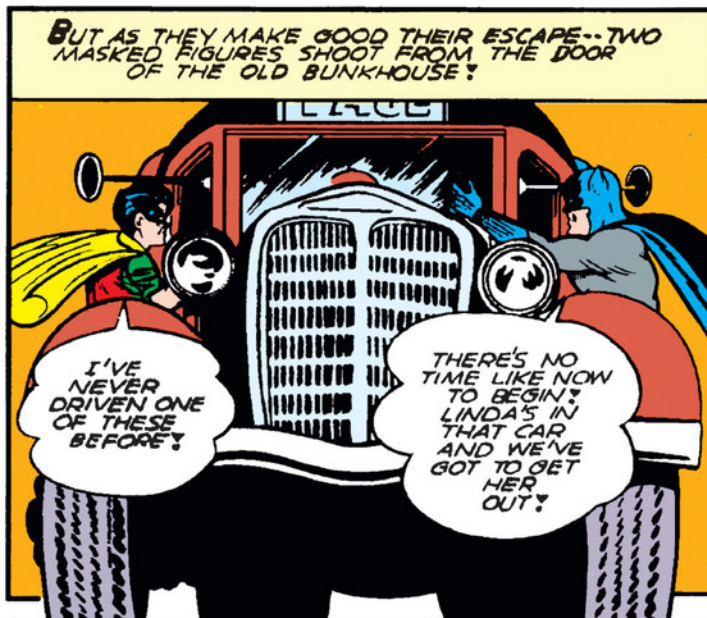
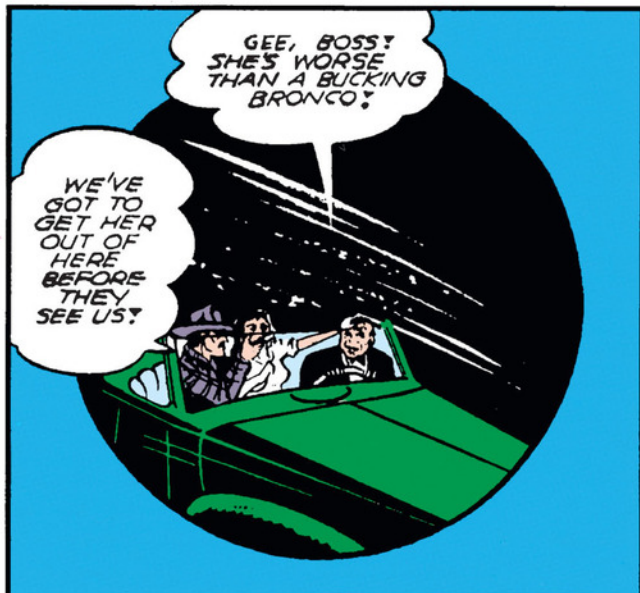


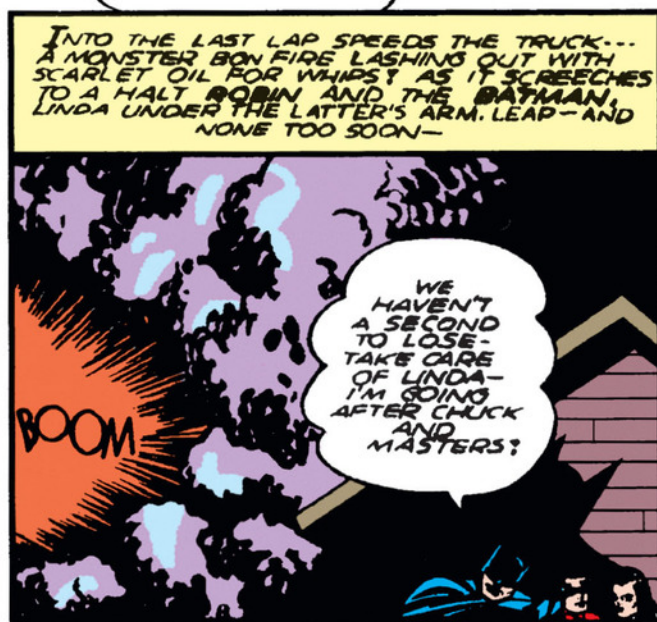
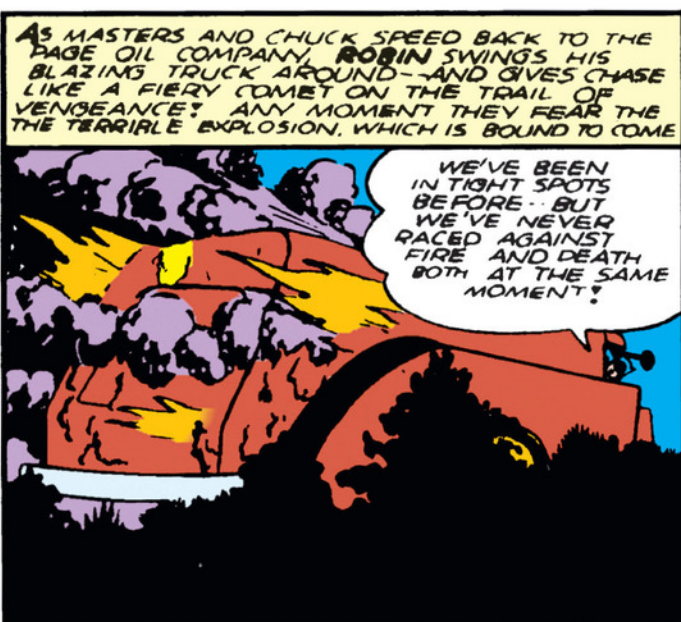
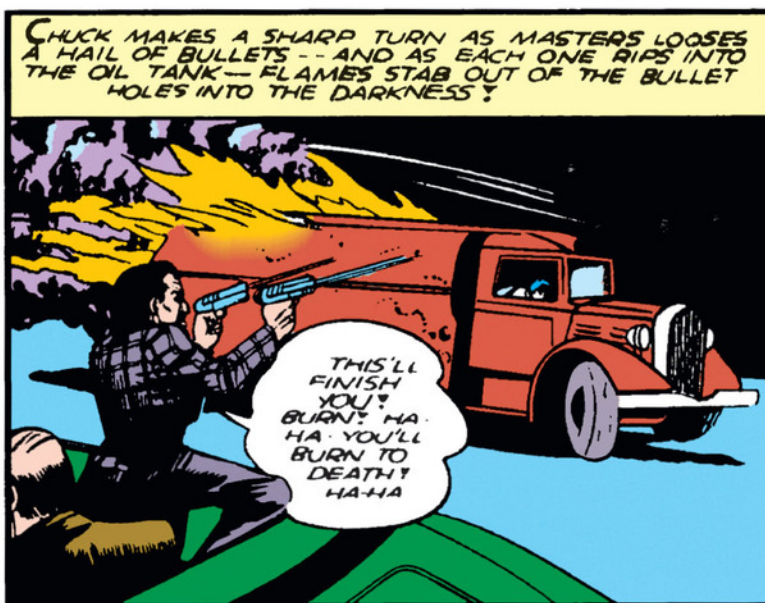
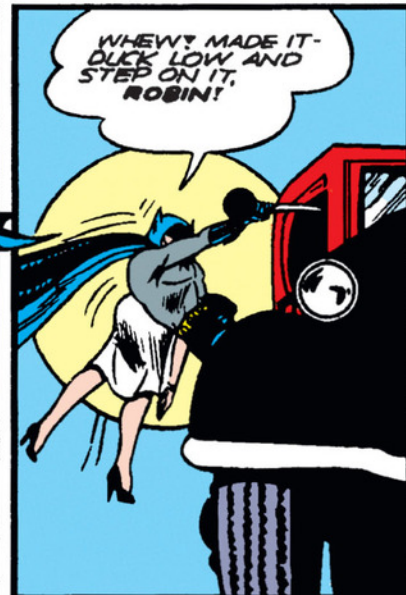
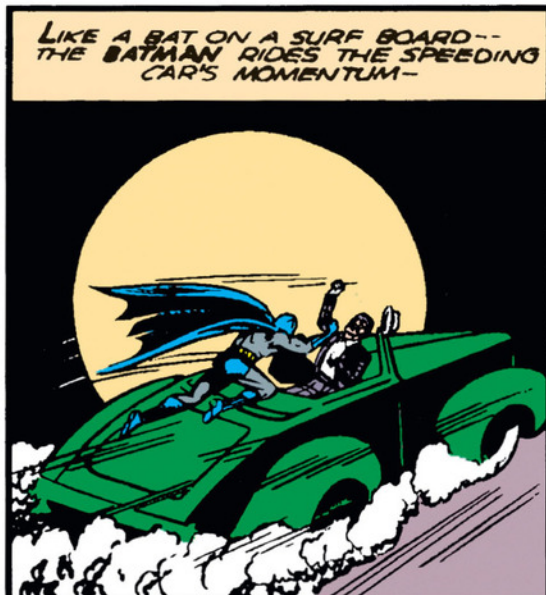
BUT OUTSIDE, NIGHT IS FALLING, AND BRUCE SLIPS AWAY TO THE OLD BUNK-HOUSE WHERE HE HAD AGREED TO MEET DICK--



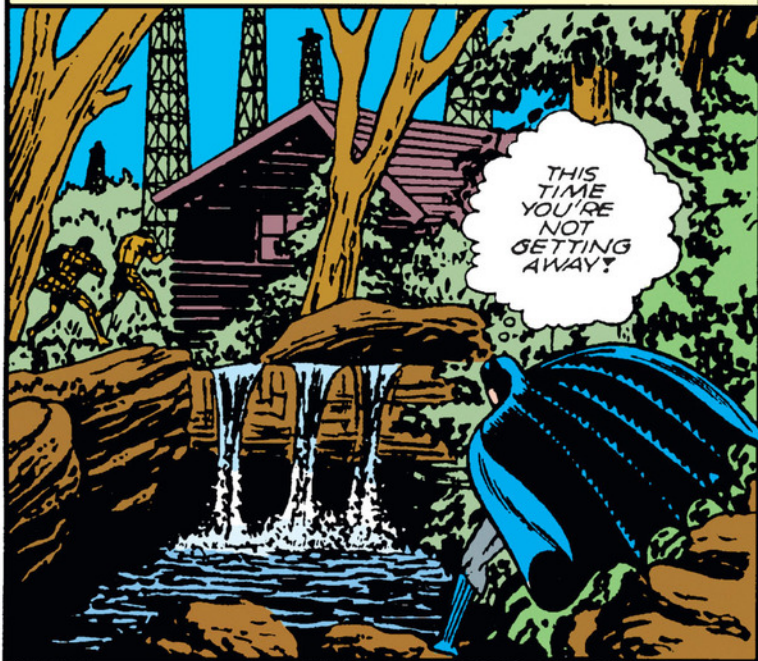
MEANWHILE, A YELLOW ROADSTER PULLS UP-- AT THE VERY MOMENT MASTERS SNEAKS OUT OF THE OFFICE. LINDA PAGE HAS ARRIVED EARLIER THAN SHE PLANNED.



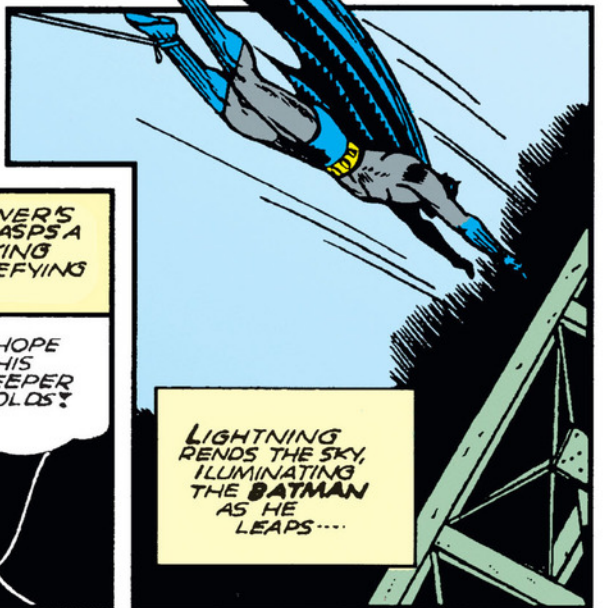
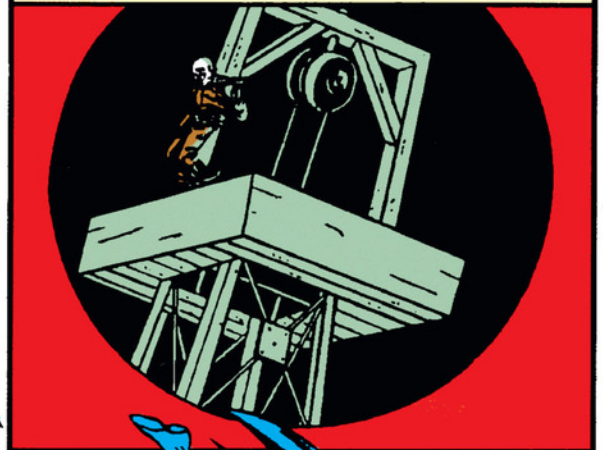




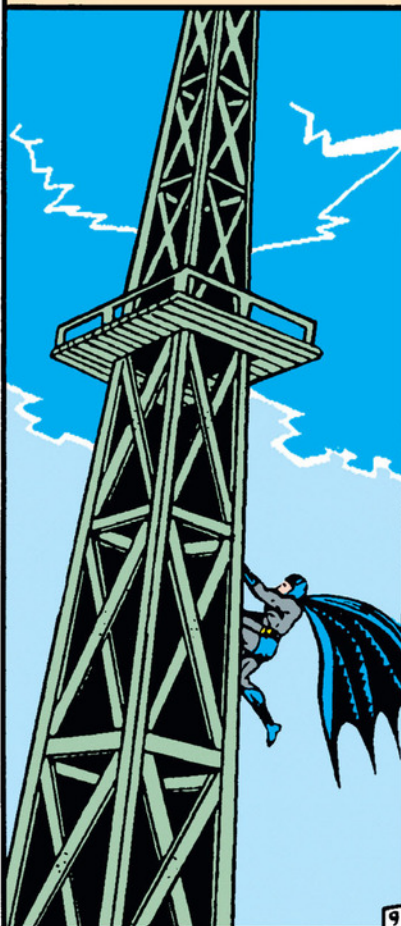
WITH PANTHER-LIKE MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN TRAILS HIS QUARRY INTO THE DENSE SEMI-TROPICAL UNDERGROWTH THAT SWARMS ALL OVER THE IRON JUNGLE?



THE BATMAN SCOUTS THRU THE THICKETS. IN THE GLARE OF THE COMING STORM'S FIRST FLASH OF LIGHTNING, HE SEES TOM PAGE LASHED TO THE TOPMOST GIRDER OF A DESERTED DERRICK?



INSTANTLY, THE BATMAN SCALES THE VERY NEXT DERRICK. LIGHTNING FLARES WEIRDLY ON THE UNCANNY SCENE---



REACHING THE TOWER'S TOP, THE BATMAN GRASPS A GIANT CREEPER-- MAKING READY FOR A DEATH-DEFYING GLIDE?



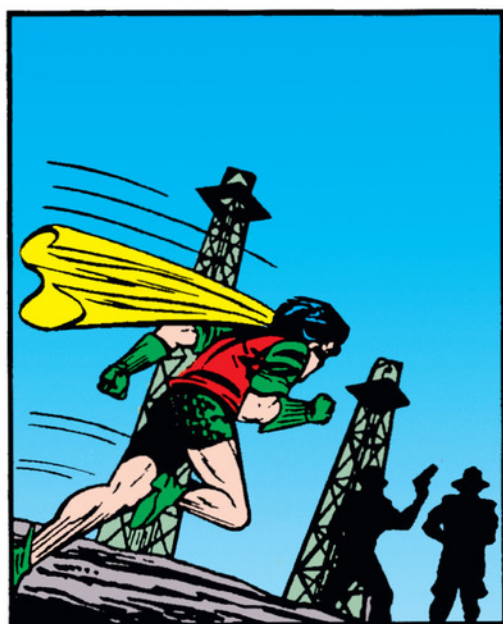
LIGHTNING RENDS THE SKY, ILLUMINATING THE BATMAN AS HE LEAPS----

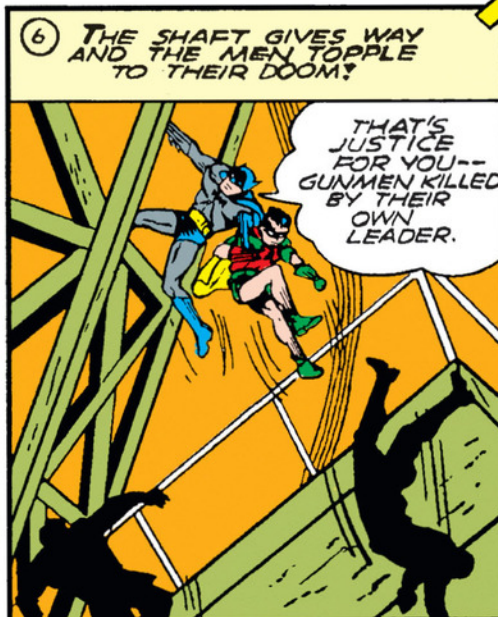
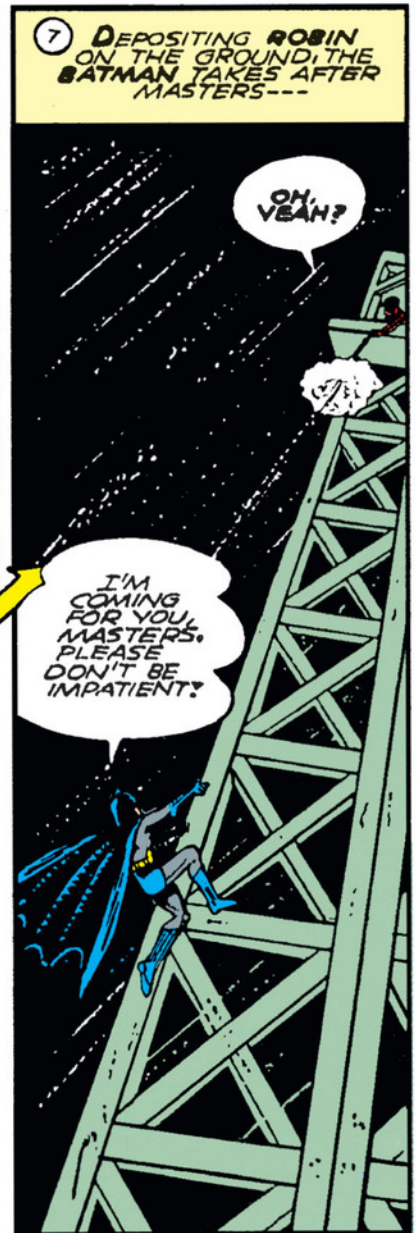
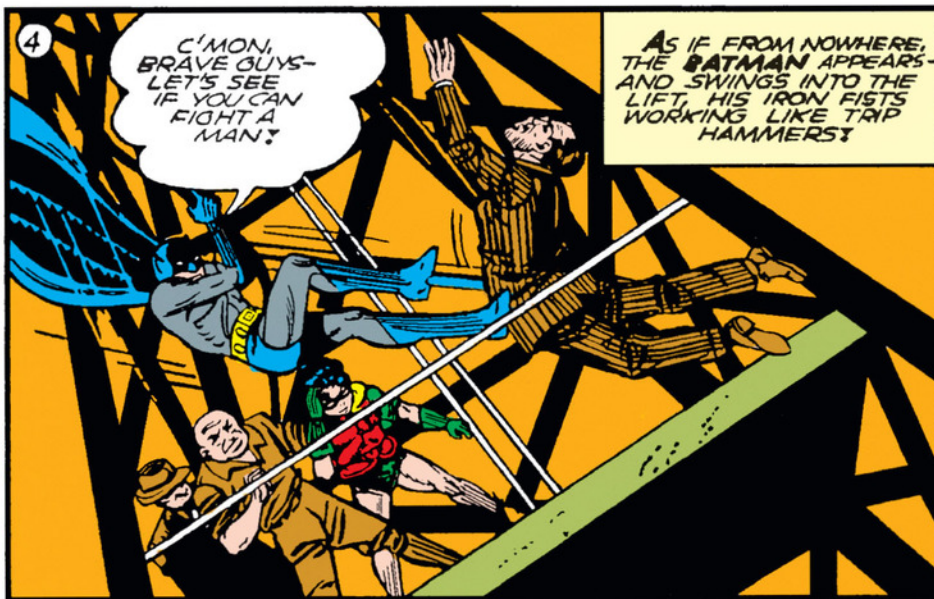
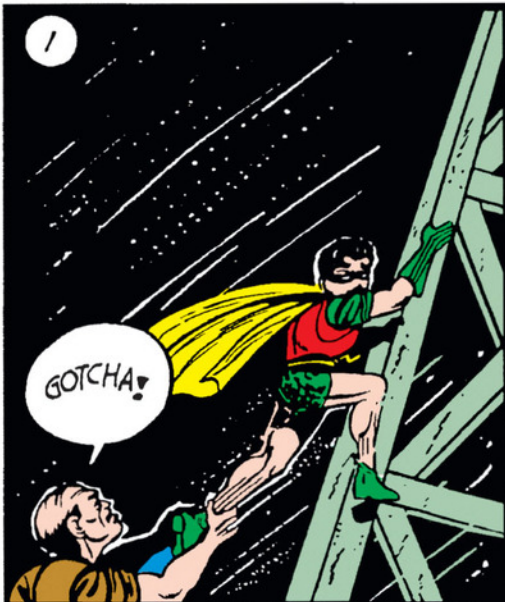
THE GUNMEN'S WEAPONS HURL SUDDEN DEATH!

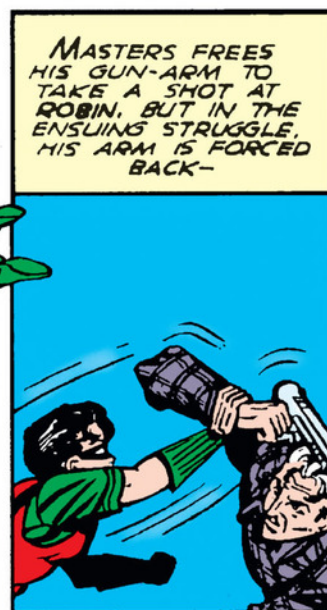
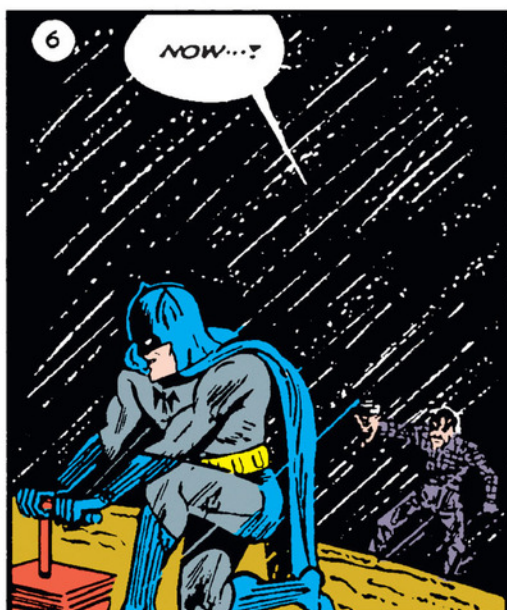
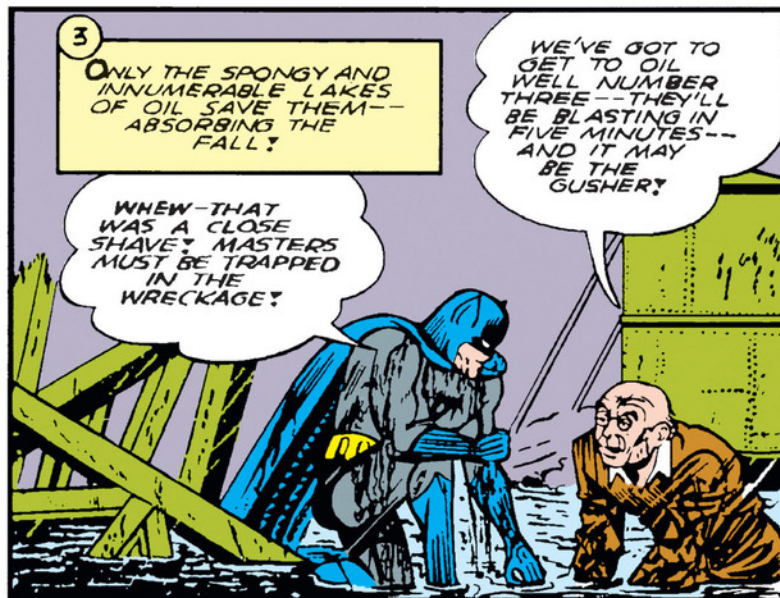
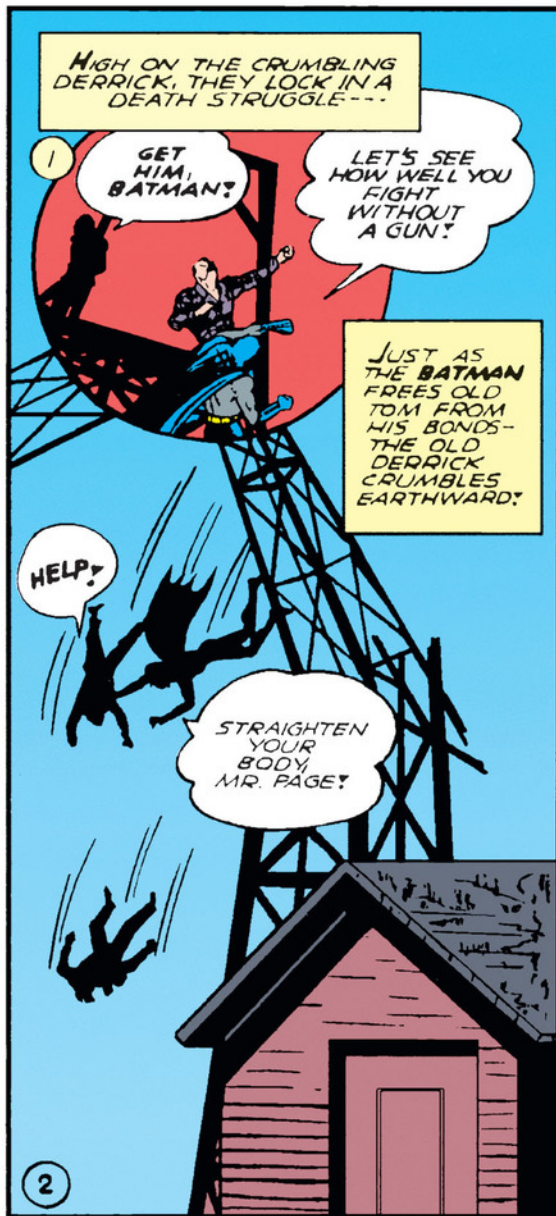


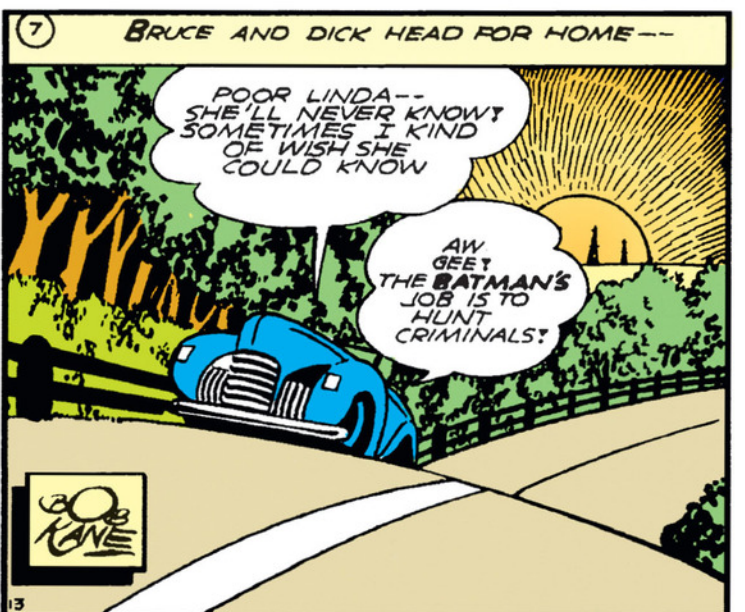
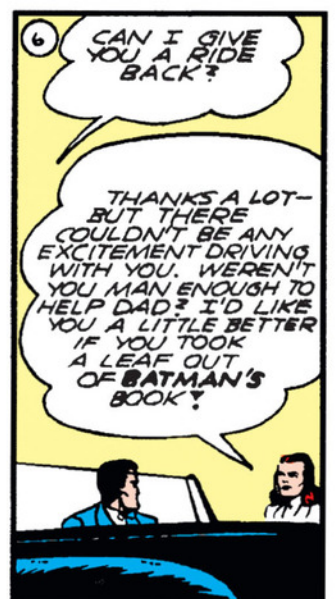
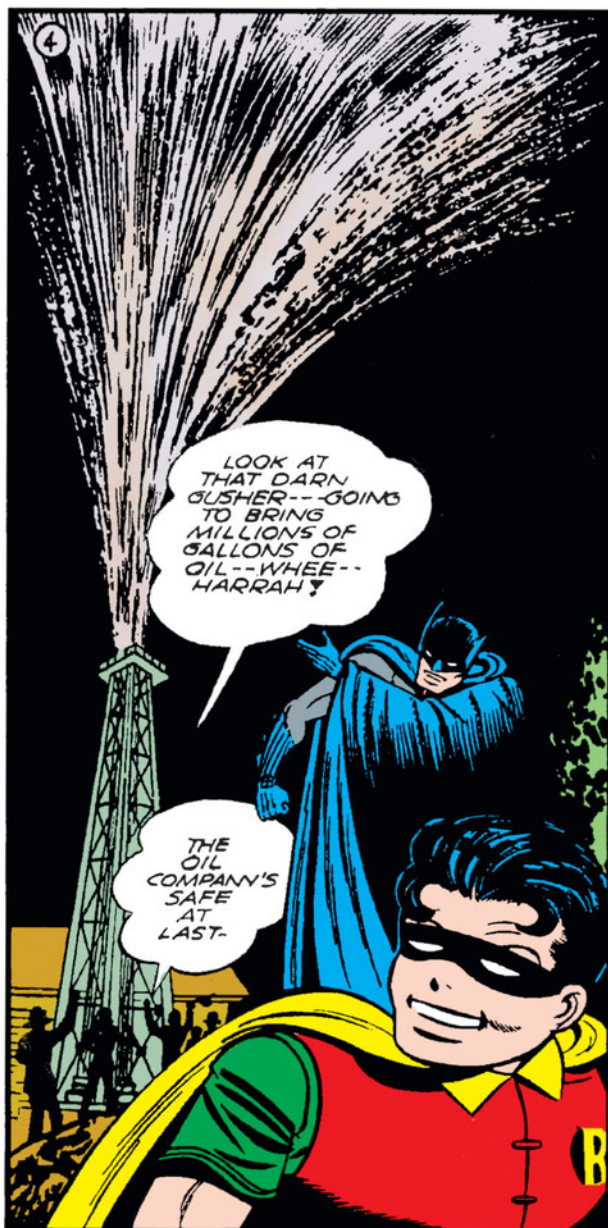
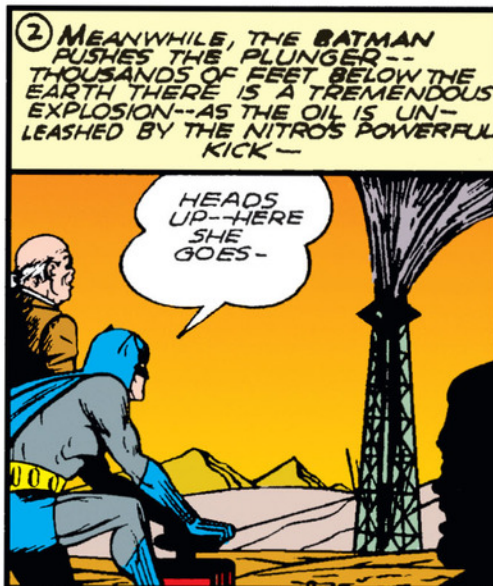
THE STREAM OF BULLETS SEVER THE CREEPER-- THE BATMAN'S SOLE LINK WITH THE WORLD?











BAT MAN

WITH
Robin

-THE BOY WONDER-

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

BY
BOB KANE

WHEN KILLERS MOCK THE LAW
AND TAUNT THE BLUE-COATED PRO-
TECTORS OF SOCIETY, THEN IT IS
TIME FOR THE BATMAN TO MAKE HIS
TIMELY ENTRANCE! WITH HIS LAUGHING
YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER,
THIS MASTER CRIME-SMASHER PEN-
ETRATES THE HIDDEN LAIR OF THE
DENIZENS OF THE UNDERWORLD
AND MEETS THEIR MEASURES WITH
SWIFT ACTIONS OF HIS OWN!
FOLLOW THE BATMAN NOW AS
HE FARES FORTH ON ANOTHER
MISSION---FERRETING OUT AND
CRUSHING THE EVIL ON---
"SUICIDE BEAT!"

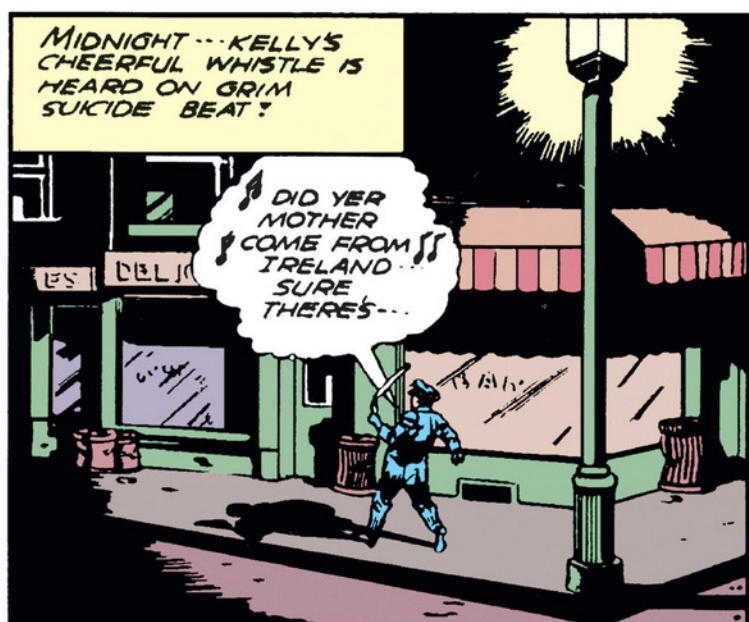
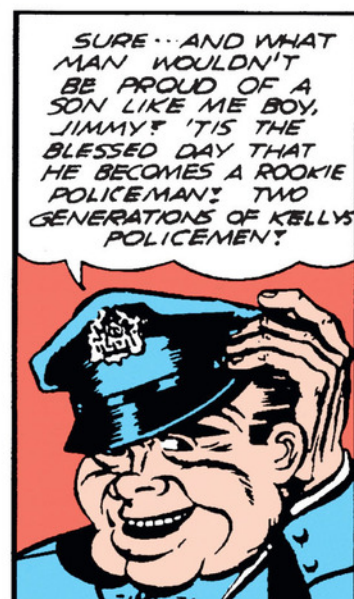
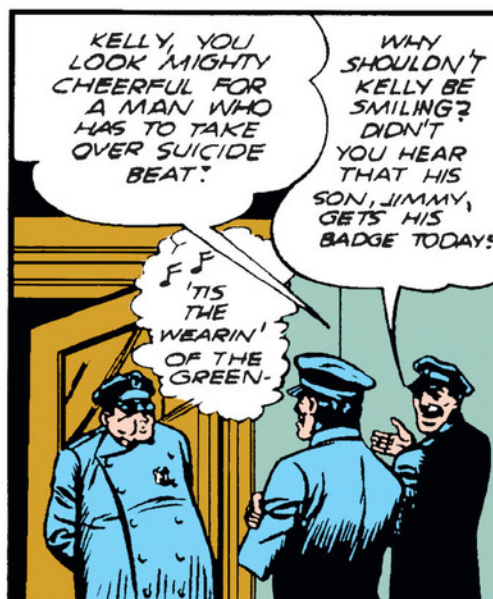
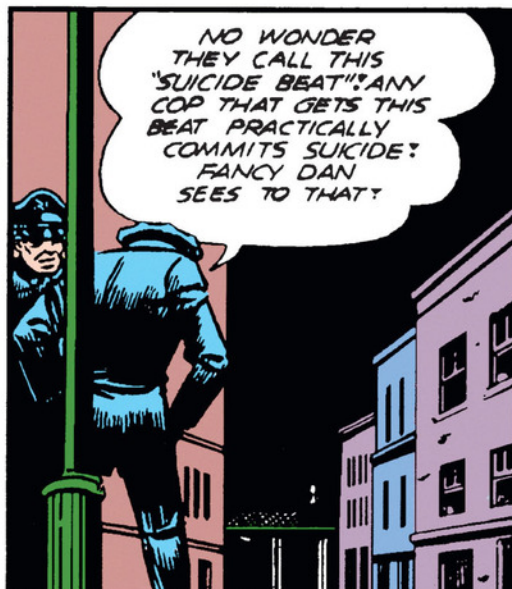


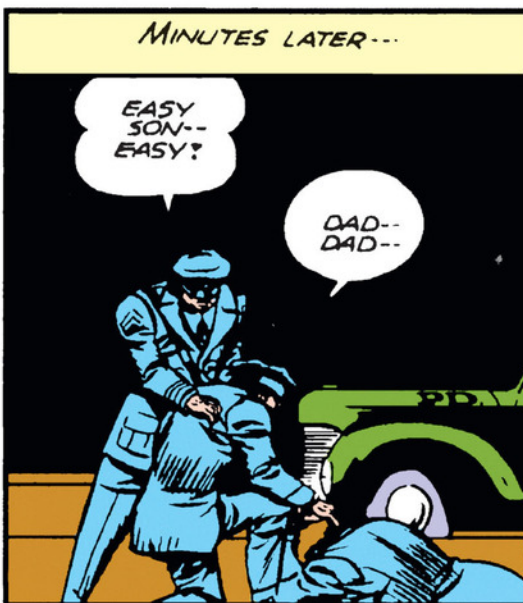
NIGHT SOUNDS?...A SHOT...A
GROAN...AND A LAUGH?

FANCY
DAN
SENDS HIS
REGARDS,
COPPER?
HA--HA?

OH-N-N-







THE NEXT MORNING... BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, SITS IN THE OFFICES OF HIS FRIEND, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON---



I KNOW I GAVE THE ROOKIE A TOUGH BEAT, BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'LL PIN SOMETHING ON FANCY DAN!

IF HE DOESN'T, WE'LL BE PINNING SOMETHING ON HIM-- A WREATH?

AT LEAST, THE BOY WILL GET THE COOPERATION OF THE PEOPLE ON THOSE STREETS, WON'T HE?



A CROOKED POLITICIAN RUNS THAT STREET-- AND HE'S A SMART POLITICIAN. HE LENDS THE POOR PEOPLE MONEY, BUYS THEM FOOD ON CHRISTMAS--

FINDS MEN JOBS, ETC., AND ASKS IN RETURN THAT THEY VOTE FOR HIM AND PROTECT HIS JACKALS-- NATURALLY, THE PEOPLE DO JUST AS HE SAYS-- AND HATE COPS? JIMMY WON'T GET ANY HELP FROM THEM?



VERY INTERESTING! WELL--I--I'LL BE TODDLING ALONG NOW! SEE YOU IN JAIL, GORDON!



SEE YOU IN A NIGHT CLUB IS MORE LIKE IT-- I THINK YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE THERE!

THAT AFTERNOON--ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF SUICIDE BEAT TURN OUT TO WATCH ROOKIE JIMMY KELLY. THOUGH GRIM AND SILENT, THEIR HATRED OF HIM IS LIKE LOUD THUNDER--



THEN, WITHOUT WARNING--



WHY, YOU LITTLE--

PETE'S BAR

HAW-HAW!



A LITTLE KID RAN IN HERE. WHERE DID HE GO?

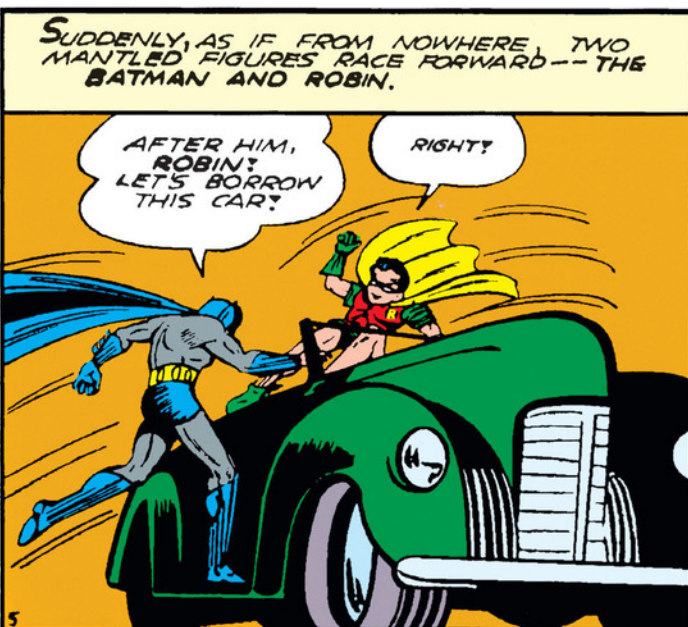
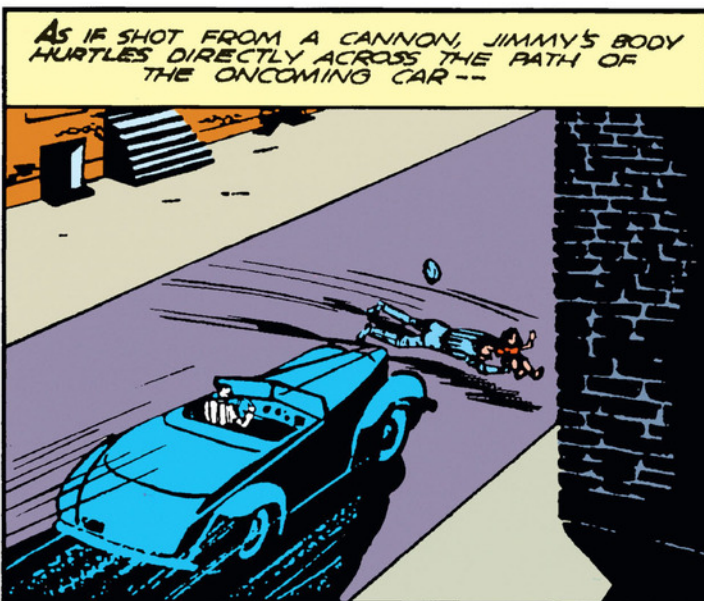
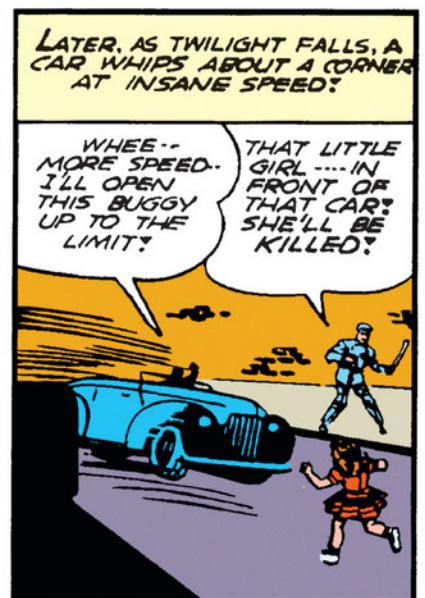
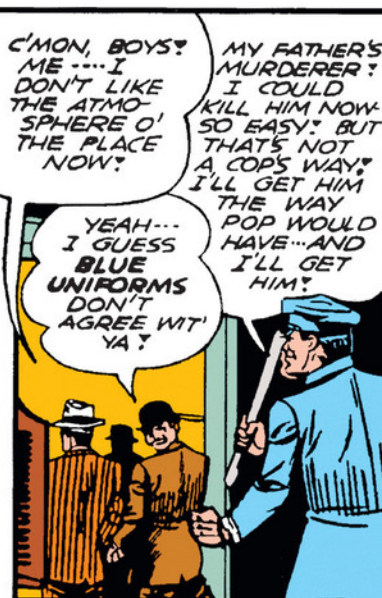
I DIDN'T SEE NO KID?



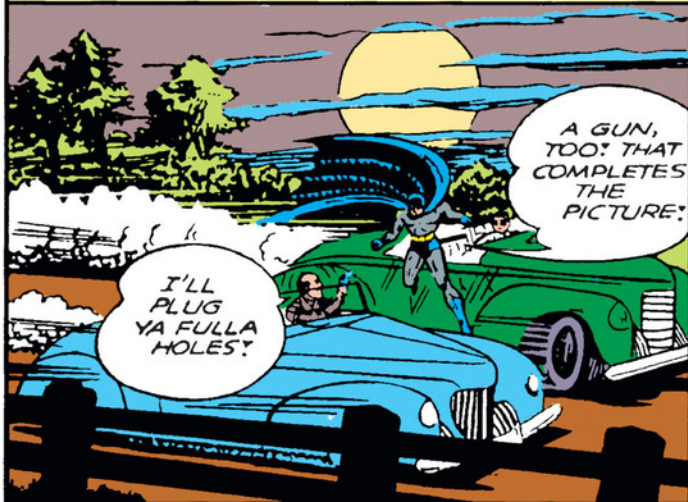
I DIDN'T SEE NO KID?

BUT YOU MUST HAVE SEEN HIM. HE RAN RIGHT IN HERE!

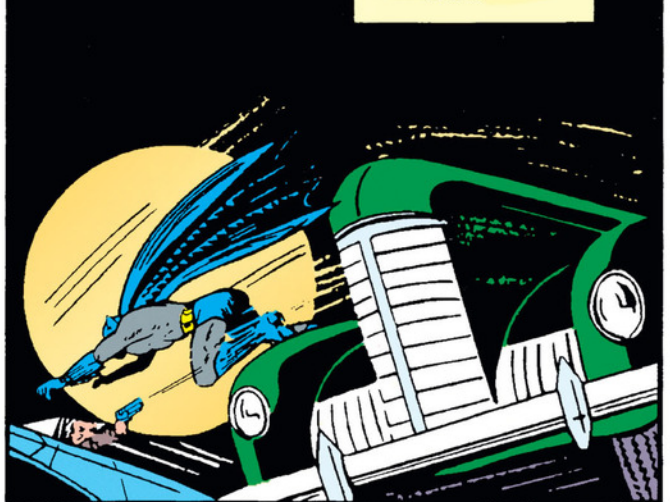
IF HE DIDN'T SEE NO KID, HE DIDN'T SEE NO KID... COPPER?



ON SCREAMING TIRES, THEY DRAW ABREAST OF THE DRUNKEN DRIVER'S RACING CAR---



A DARING LEAP---



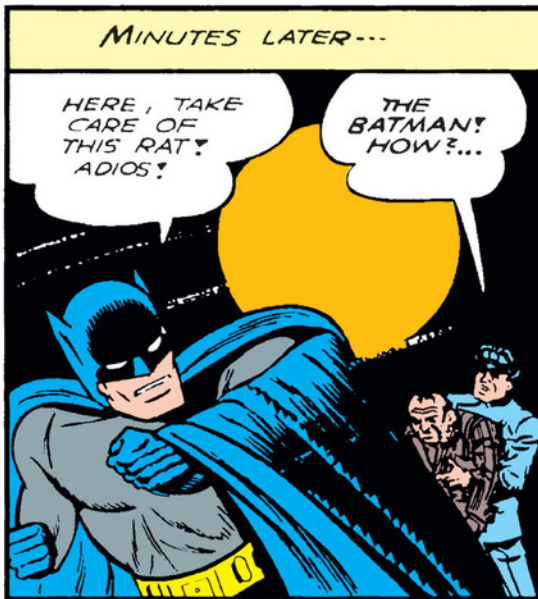
WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMETHING TO PUT YOU ASLEEP...AND THIS IS IT!



MINUTES LATER---

HERE, TAKE CARE OF THIS RAT! ADIOS!

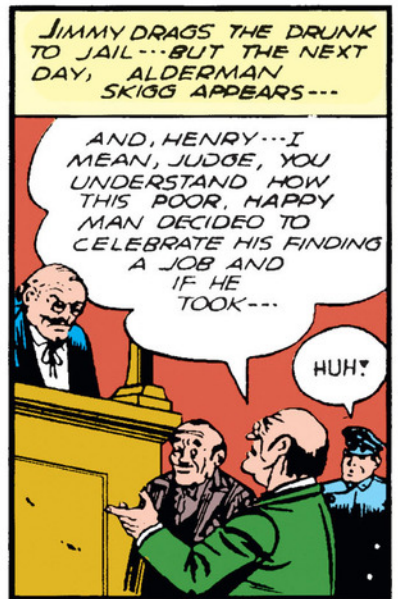
THE BATMAN! HOW?...



JIMMY DRAGS THE DRUNK TO JAIL...BUT THE NEXT DAY, ALDERMAN SKIGG APPEARS---

AND, HENRY...I MEAN, JUDGE, YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THIS POOR, HAPPY MAN DECIDED TO CELEBRATE HIS FINDING A JOB AND IF HE TOOK---

HUH?

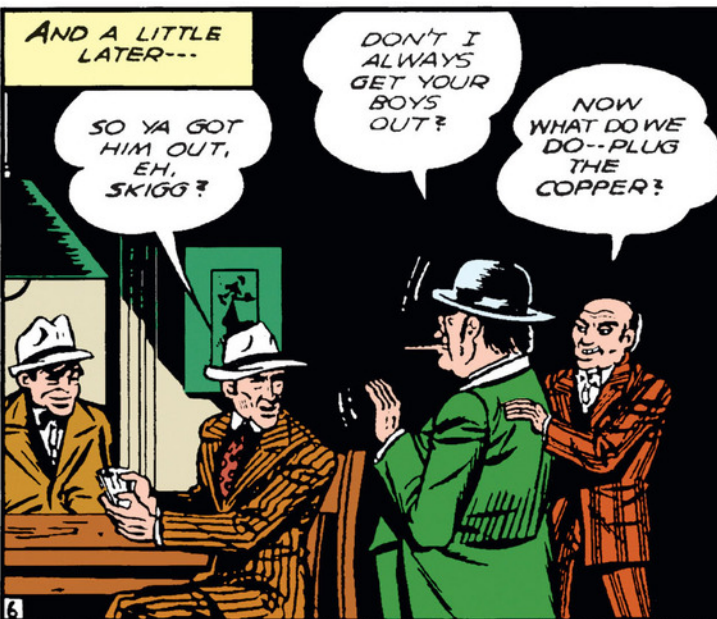


AND A LITTLE LATER---

SO YA GOT HIM OUT, EH, SKIGG?

DON'T I ALWAYS GET YOUR BOYS OUT?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO--PLUG THE COPPER?



NO? GET RID OF HIM, BUT NO SHOOTING--THREE DEAD COPS IN A ROW MIGHT BRING DOWN THE GOVERNOR?

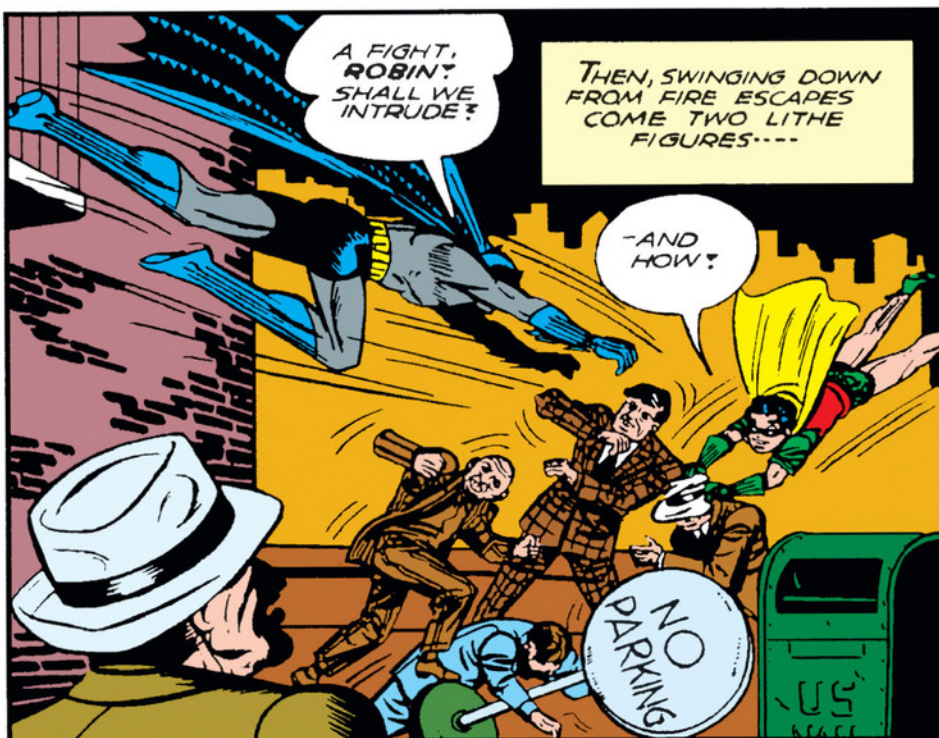
SKIGG IS RIGHT! WE'LL JUST MUSS HIM UP ENOUGH SO THAT HE GOES TO THE HOSPITAL! ME---I GOT AN IDEA!



THAT VERY NIGHT---SUICIDE BEAT LIES CLOAKED IN SILENCE AND DARKNESS. SUDDENLY---THE SOUND OF A SCUFFLE---



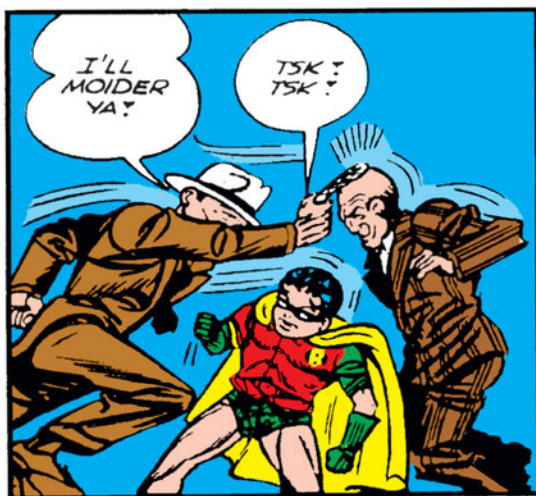
BUT AS JIMMY TRIES TO SEPARATE THE TWO, THEY SUDDENLY TURN ON HIM....AND OUT OF THE SHADOWS LEAP MORE THUGS?



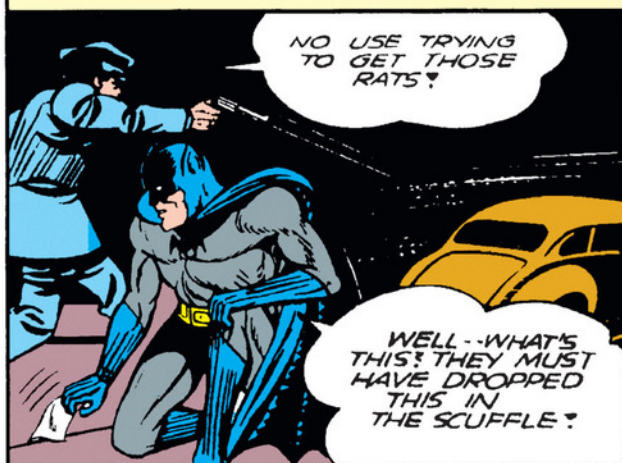
THE BATMAN'S FIST FLASHES OUT WITH THE DEADLINESS OF A STRIKING SNAKE?



AND NOW, JIMMY HAS RECOVERED....



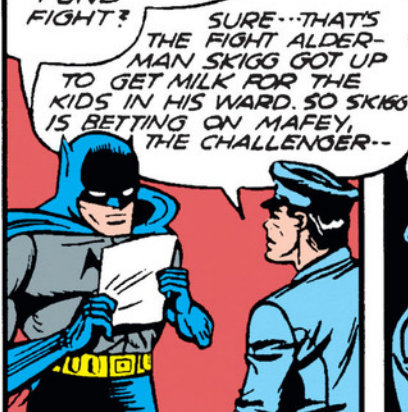
SUDDENLY, A CAR SHOOTS FROM BEHIND A CORNER---STOPS LONG ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE HOODLUMS, AND THEN SPEEDS AWAY-----



NO USE TRYING TO GET THOSE RATS?

WELL--WHAT'S THIS? THEY MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS IN THE SCUFFLE?

"PUT 5 GRAND ON MAFEY. (SIGNED) SKIGG" SAY, ISN'T MAFEY THE FIGHTER WHO BATTLES JORGAN, THE CHAMP, TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE MILK FUND FIGHT?



SURE--THAT'S THE FIGHT ALDERMAN SKIGG GOT UP TO GET MILK FOR THE KIDS IN HIS WARD. SO SKIGG IS BETTING ON MAFEY, THE CHALLENGER--

AND JORGAN IS THE CHAMP; IF I KNOW SKIGG, THAT CHEAP MISER WOULDN'T BET ON SOME THING UNLESS HE WAS SURE OF IT?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS FIGHT HAS BEEN FRAMED--IN FACT, I'M ALMOST SURE! I THINK I'M GOING TO PUT THE SKIDS UNDER ALDERMAN SKIGG?



THE NEXT NIGHT--ALDERMAN SKIGG ADDRESSES THE HUGE CROWD IN THE STADIUM---



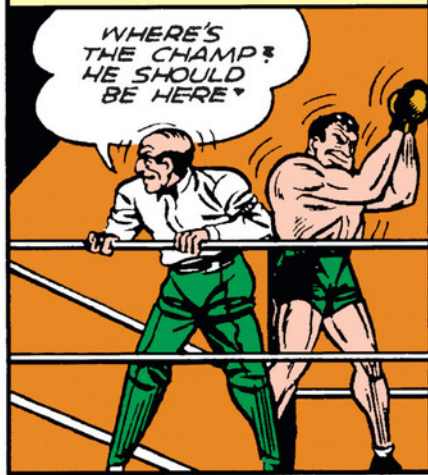
AND SO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, ARUMPH-- I'VE ARRANGED SO THAT THE PROCEEDS WILL BUY GOOD MILK FOR STARVING BABIES ---BLAH --- BLAH---

AND IN THE CHAMP'S DRESSING ROOM, A SHADOW MOVES ACROSS THE WALL---



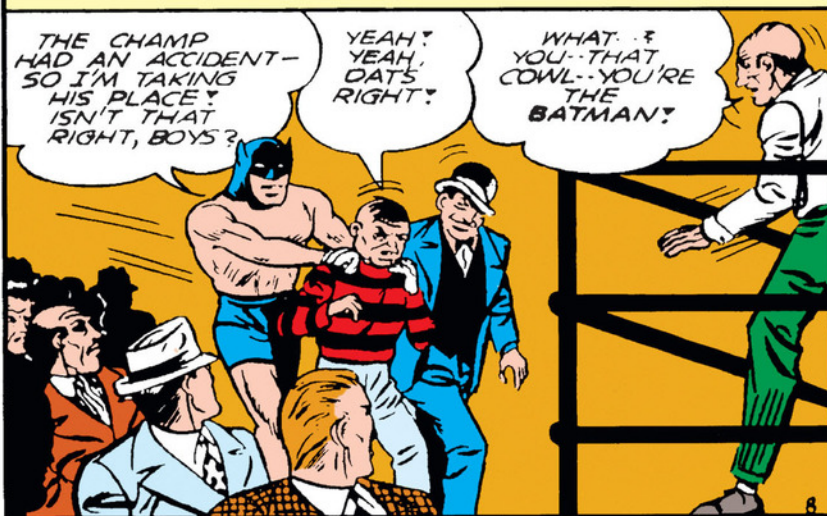
WHA...? OH--H--H--H?

IN THE RING --- THE CHALLENGER, BIFF MAFEY, ACKNOWLEDGES THE PLAUDITS OF THE CROWD.



WHERE'S THE CHAMP? HE SHOULD BE HERE?

SUDDENLY---WALKING DOWN THE AISLE---THE CHAMP'S TRAINER AND MANAGER WITH THE BATMAN---

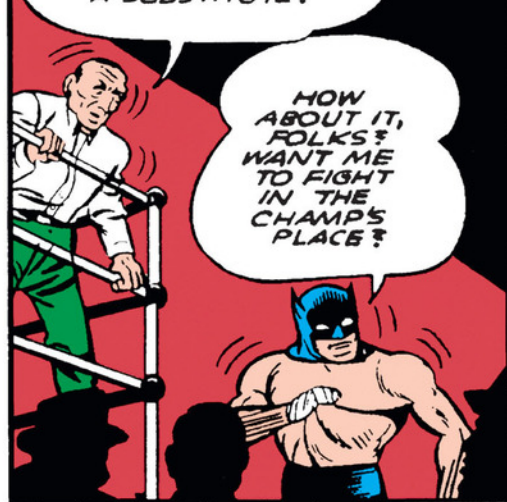


THE CHAMP HAD AN ACCIDENT-- SO I'M TAKING HIS PLACE? ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BOYS?

YEAH? YEAH, OATS RIGHT?

WHAT...? YOU--THAT COWL--YOU'RE THE BATMAN?

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE HIS PLACE, IT ISN'T--I MEAN--THE CROWD DON'T WANT A SUBSTITUTE?



HOW ABOUT IT, FOLKS? WANT ME TO FIGHT IN THE CHAMP'S PLACE?

THE CROWD COMES TO A UNANIMOUS DECISION...

YES? WE WANT THE BATMAN!

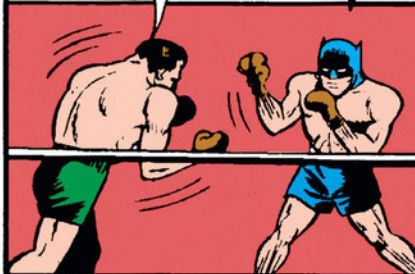
WE WANT THE BATMAN!



THE BELL CLANGS FOR THE FIRST ROUND... THE FIGHT IS ON -

THE BATMAN, EH? WELL, HERE'S WHERE I MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A PUNK!

STOP TALKING, AND FIGHT--



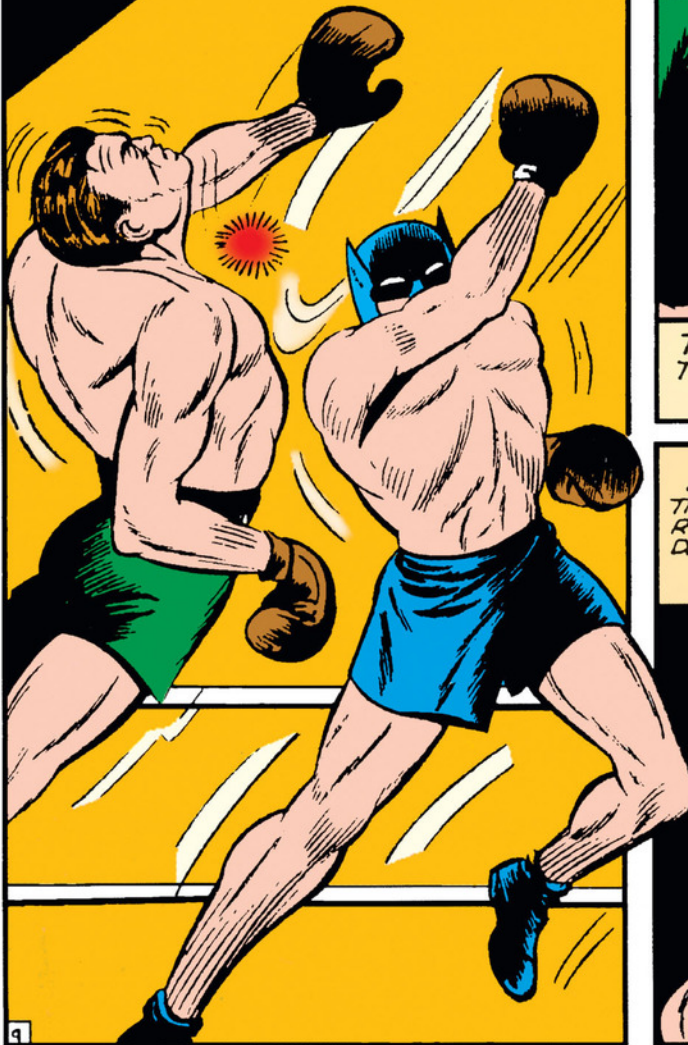
THE BATMAN EASILY SLIPS UNDER A ROUND-HOUSE RIGHT...

JUST A BIG BAG OF WIND?

I'LL... WHOOSH!!

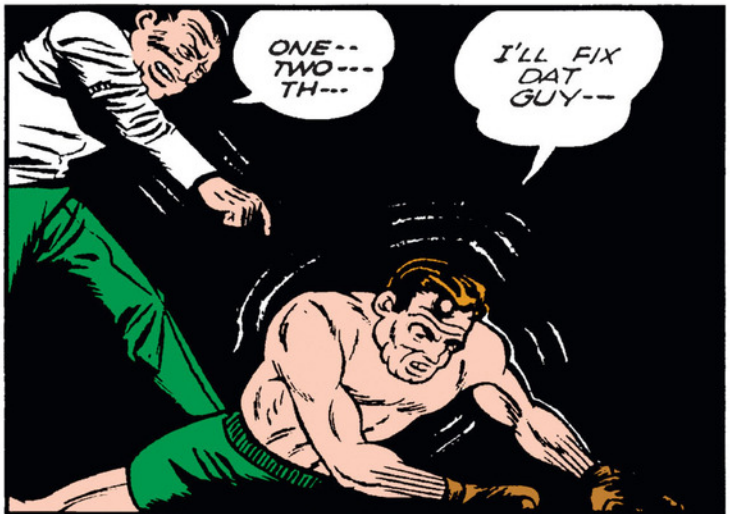


AND FOLLOWS UP WITH A TERRIFIC UPPER CUT!



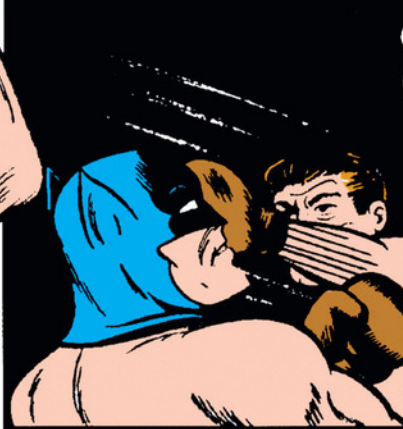
ONE-- TWO--- TH---

I'LL FIX DAT GUY--



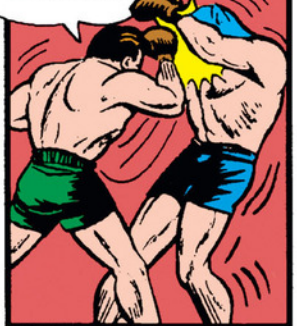
THE CHALLENGER RUBS HIS GLOVE INTO THE CANVAS THAT BEARS THE RESIN FROM THEIR SHOE SOLES----

AS HE RISES, HE SPEARS THE BATMAN IN THE FACE, RUBBING THE RESIN-DABBED GLOVE INTO THE BATMAN'S EYES...



FOR THE MOMENT, THE BATMAN'S EYES ARE BLINDED... HE FACES EASY PREY TO FISTS THAT SNEAK PAST HIS GUARD

HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM ONIONS, BATMAN?

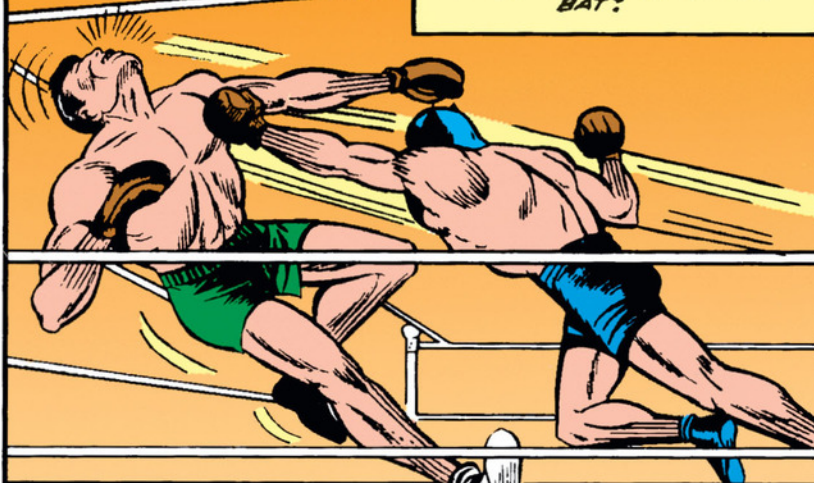


THROUGH BLURRED VISION, HE SEES MAFEY RUSH AT HIM FOR THE KILL....

GET READY TO KISS THAT CANVAS, CHUM?



BUT THE BATMAN IS READY! HIS FIST SHOOTS OUT AND LANDS WITH THE FORCE OF A BASEBALL BAT?

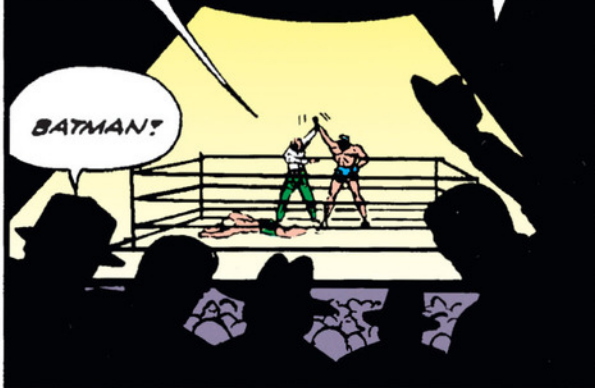


THERE IS NO NEED FOR A COUNT. MAFEY IS OUT...BUT DEFINITELY?

THE WINNAH... THE BATMAN?

BATMAN?

BATMAN?



SUDDENLY, LIGHTS WINK OUT OVER THE STADIUM...

WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?



AND WHEN THEY FLASH ON AGAIN AFTER A FEW MOMENTS...

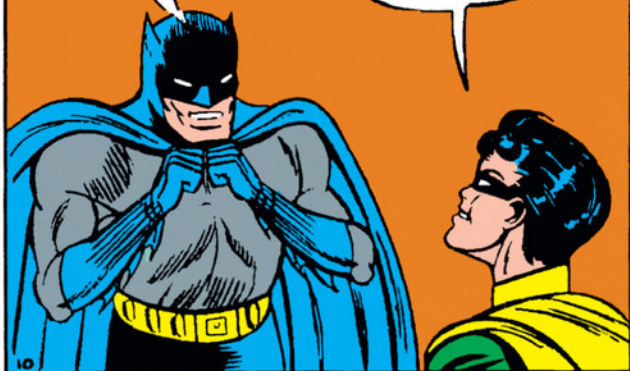
HUH? HE'S GONE? THE BATMAN'S GONE?



NICE WORK, KID? YOU TURNED OUT THOSE LIGHTS JUST IN TIME. I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH THE CROWD ANY OTHER WAY?

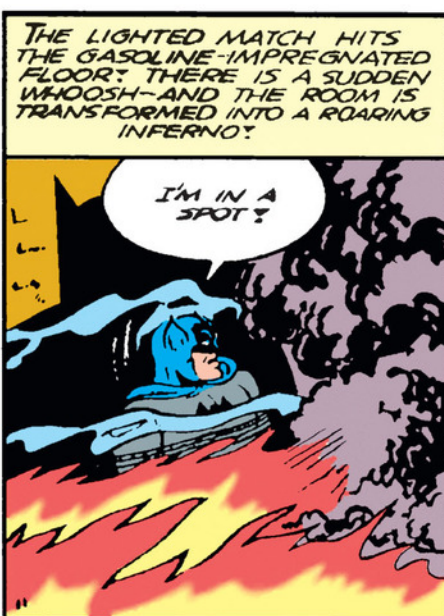
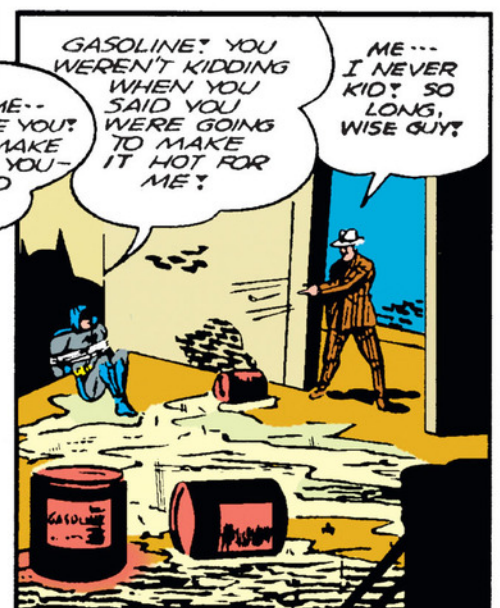
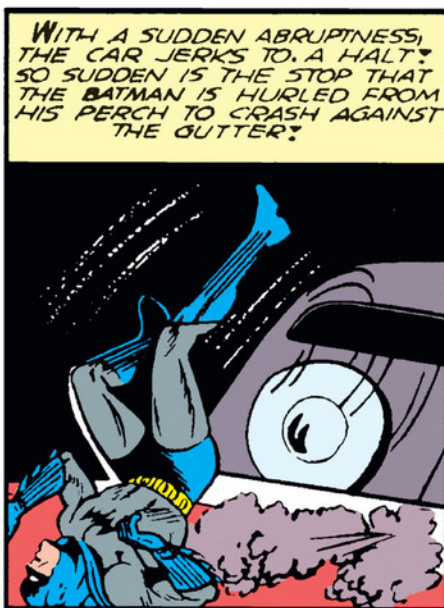
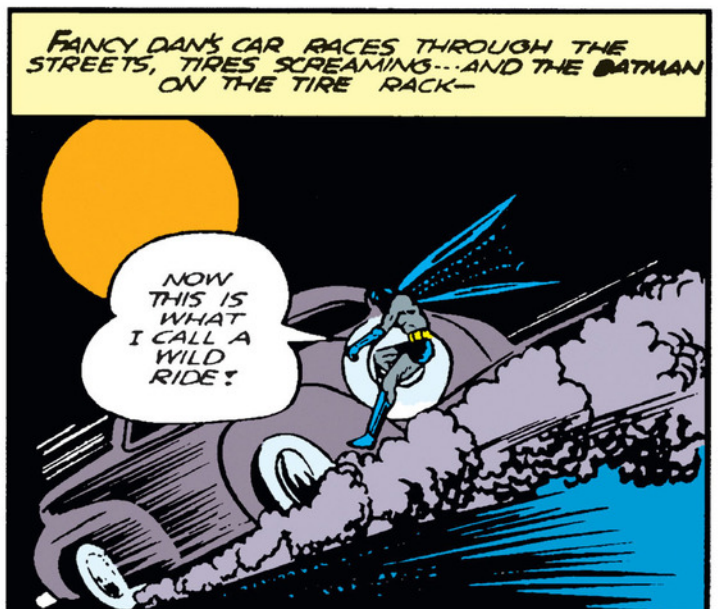
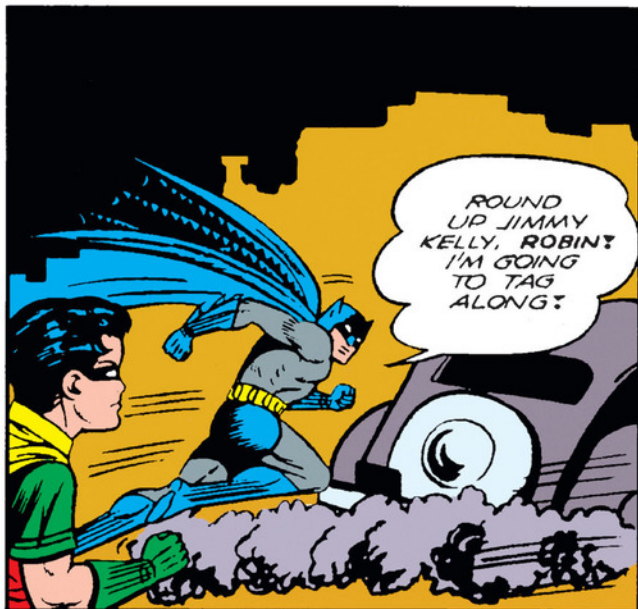
OUTSIDE THE STADIUM--

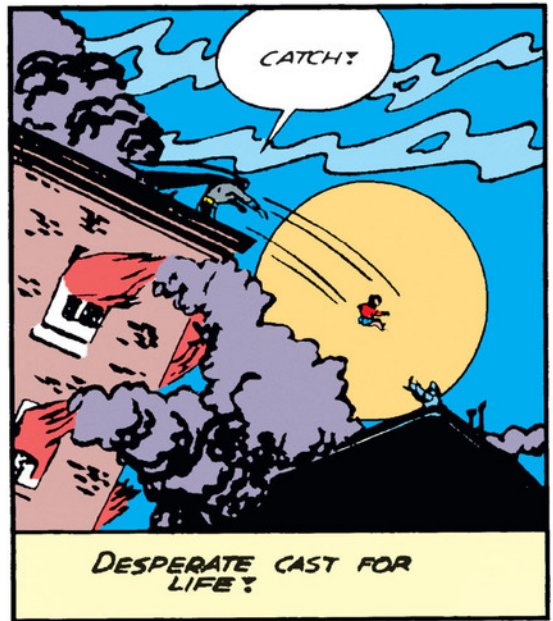
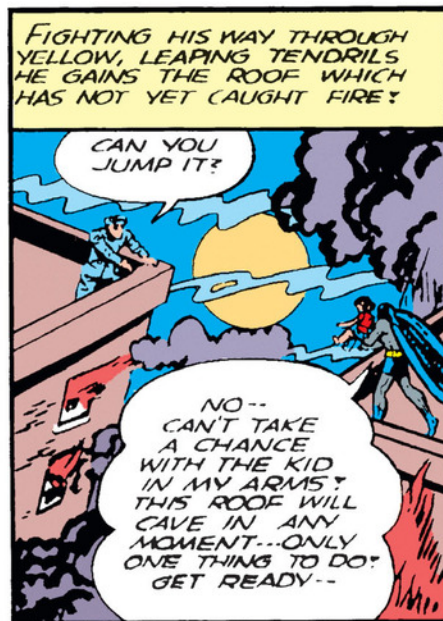
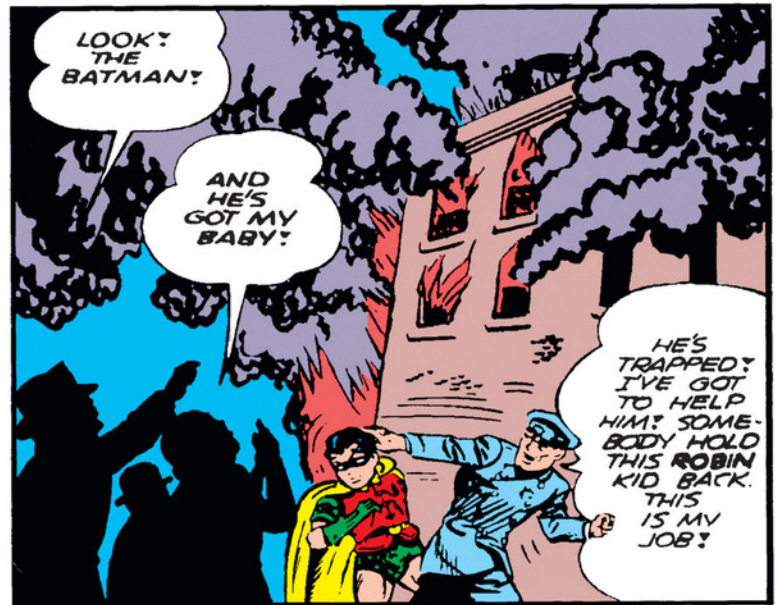
IT WAS EASY. THERE WAS NO ONE BY THE LIGHT SWITCH?

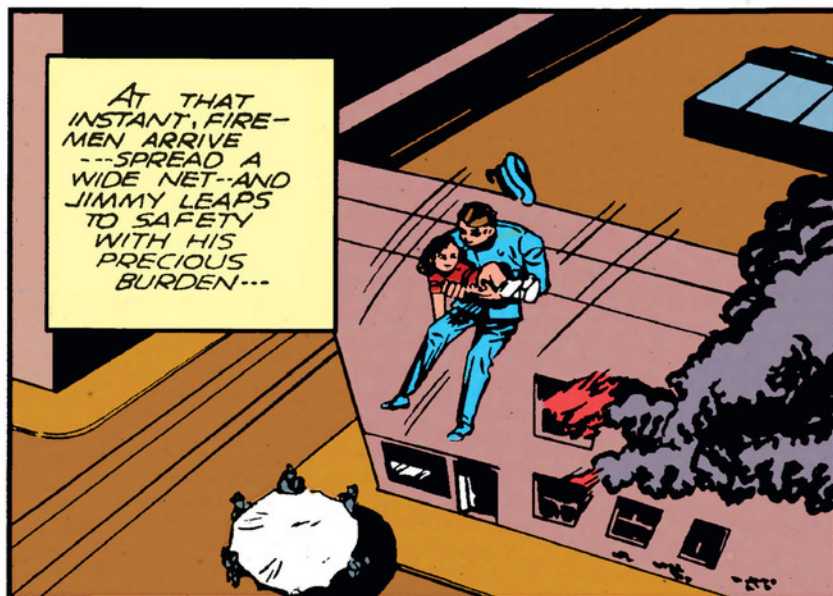


ABRUPTLY, THERE IS THE BLAST OF GUN-FIRE... A VOICE RAISES IN A SHOUT...AS FANCY DAN AND HIS MOBSTERS GET AWAY WITH THE GATE RECEIPTS?









AND JUST AS THE BUILDING
CRASHES INWARD, THE BATMAN
MAKES HIS LEAP THROUGH
SPACE TO THAT NET THAT
SEEMS SO SMALL BELOW!





No. 55

The BATMAN

Detective COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

SEPT.



BO
KAW
VE

BATMAN

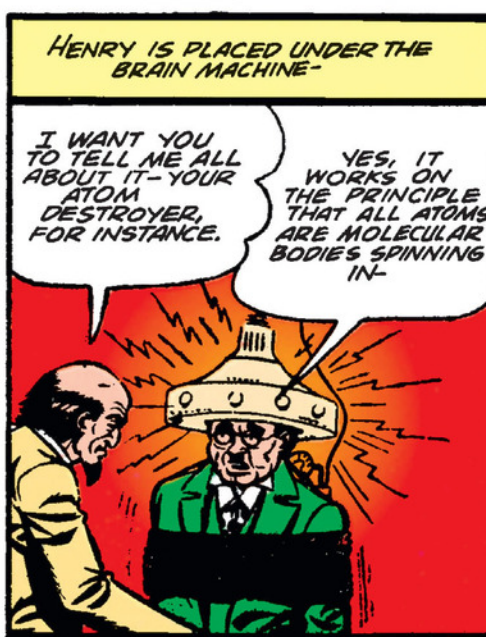
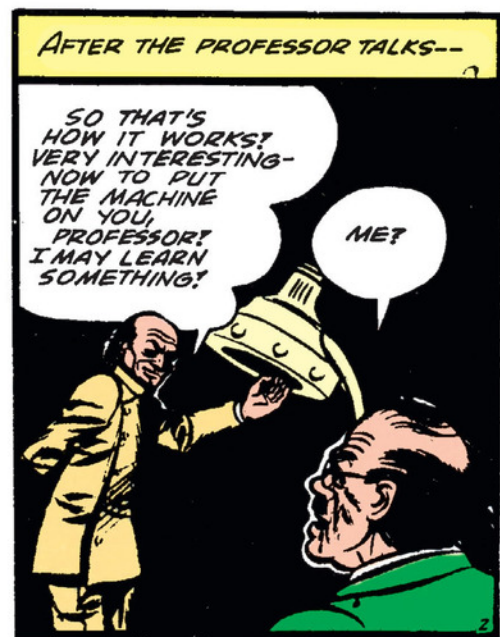
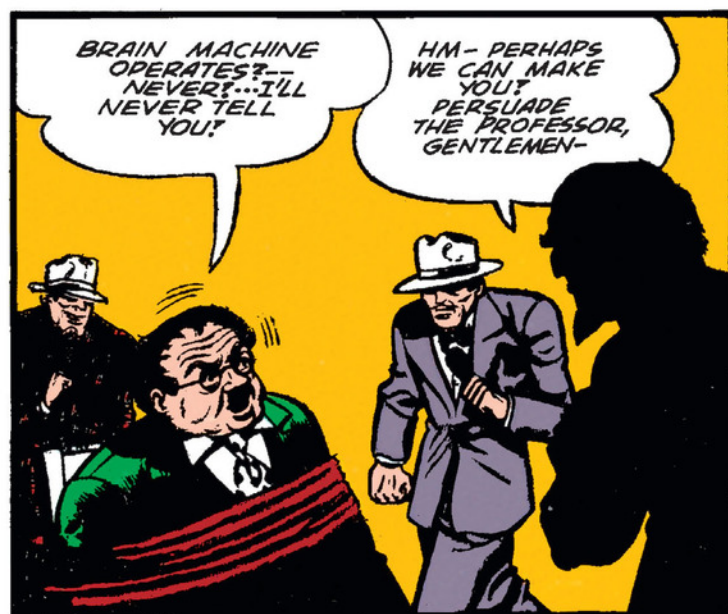
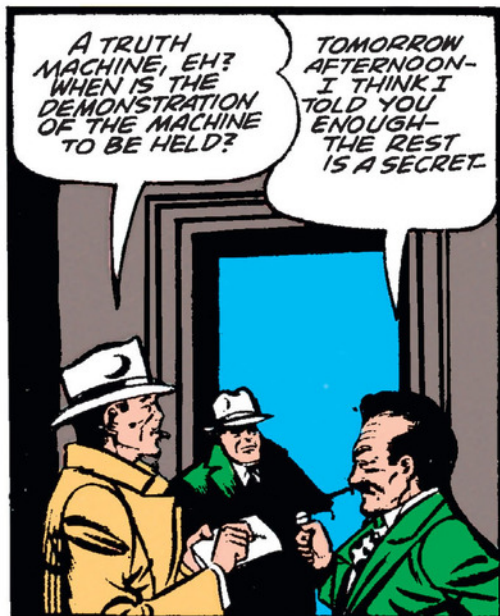
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

WORST OF ALL MENACES--
WORST OF ALL CRIMINALS!
IS THE FIFTH COLUMNIST?
TREACHEROUS, DANGEROUS
AS A SNAKE, HE BURGLARS
THE SECRETS OF A PEACE-
LOVING PEOPLE IN AN
ATTEMPT TO SMASH
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY!
WHEN HE TRIES TO BORE
EVEN INTO THE VERY
BRAINS OF A PEOPLE,
THEN IT IS THAT THE
WHIRLWIND DUO--THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN--
STEPS IN TO STOP HIM
AND BRING A SWIFT
END TO THE DIABOLICAL
EVIL OF
"THE BRAIN BURGLAR!"

NEWS REPORTERS INTERVIEW PROFESSOR
JON HENRY, SCIENTIST, NOTED FOR
HIS MANY INVENTIONS--

AND WHAT'S
THE PURPOSE
OF YOUR
NEW MACHINE,
PROFESSOR?

WHEN I PLACE THE
APPARATUS ON A MAN'S
HEAD, THAT MAN IS
FORCED TO TELL THE
RIGHT ANSWER TO
ANY QUESTION ASKED
OF HIM. THE POLICE
FIND IT OF REAL
VALUE.



AFTER THEY HAVE LEARNED THE DETAILS OF PROFESSOR HENRY'S NEWEST DISCOVERY....

IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE WE HAVE STUMBLERD ONTO SOME THING THAT IS INDEED TREMENDOUS!

WE CAN CONTROL AN ENTIRE ARMY...WITH IT... CALL IN OUR AGENTS. I WANT TO SPEAK TO THEM!



THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH ENEMY AGENTS--

SO, MY COMRADES, I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING? ARE YOU WILLING TO SUBMIT TO THIS OPERATION?

GLADLY-- WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US, BUT NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT FOR THE FATHERLAND!



AND SO, THAT NIGHT, MEN SIT AND AWAIT THEIR TURN AS ONE BY ONE THEIR FANATICAL COMRADES SUBMIT TO A MYSTERIOUS OPERATION--



NEXT DAY--

39 GOTHAM GAZETTE

PROFESSOR JON HENRY AND BRAIN MACHINE DISAPPEAR?!

THE PRESS WAS AMAZED TO LEARN OF THIS MORNING'S MYSTIFYING DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NOTED SCIENTIST!



PROFESSOR JON HENRY

AND THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING-- FAMOUS SCIENTISTS, KEY MEN IN NATIONAL DEFENSE, INVENTIVE CIRCLES AND OTHERS VANISH, SEEMINGLY PLUCKED AWAY BY INVISIBLE, GHOSTLY HANDS--



I THOUGHT YOU HAD A DATE TODAY WITH LINDA PAGE

THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE-- BUT THIS LATEST DISAPPEARANCE MADE ME LOSE TRACK OF THE TIME!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH HER, ANYWAY?

TO HER UNCLE'S AVIATION PLANT WHERE THEY'RE MAKING A BOMBER FOR THE ARMY!

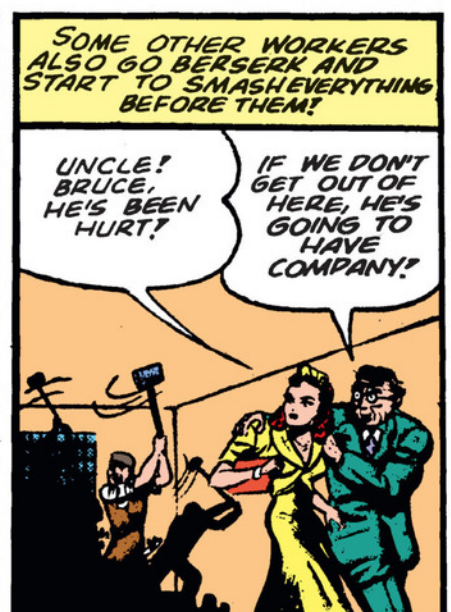
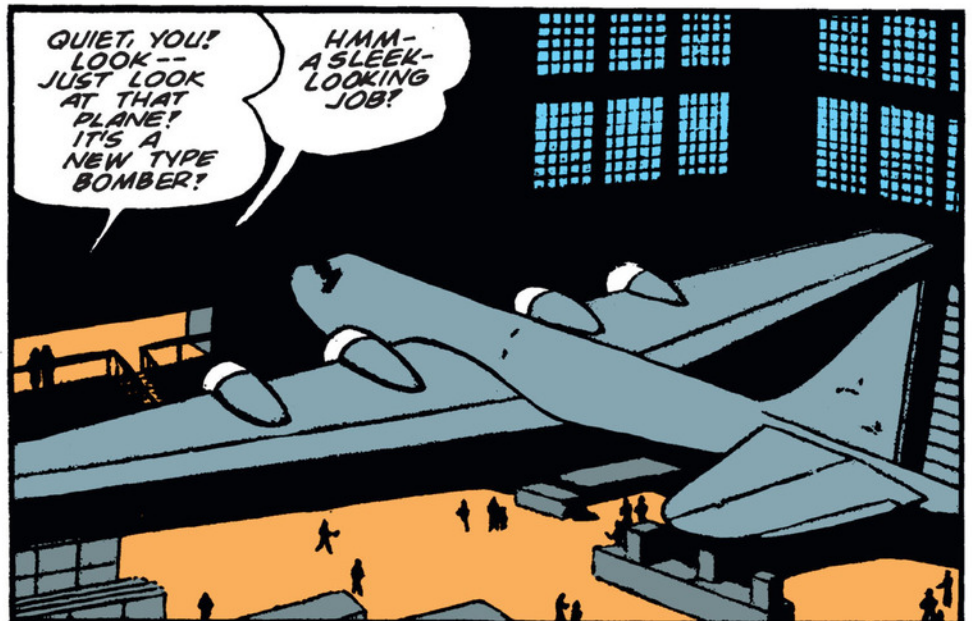


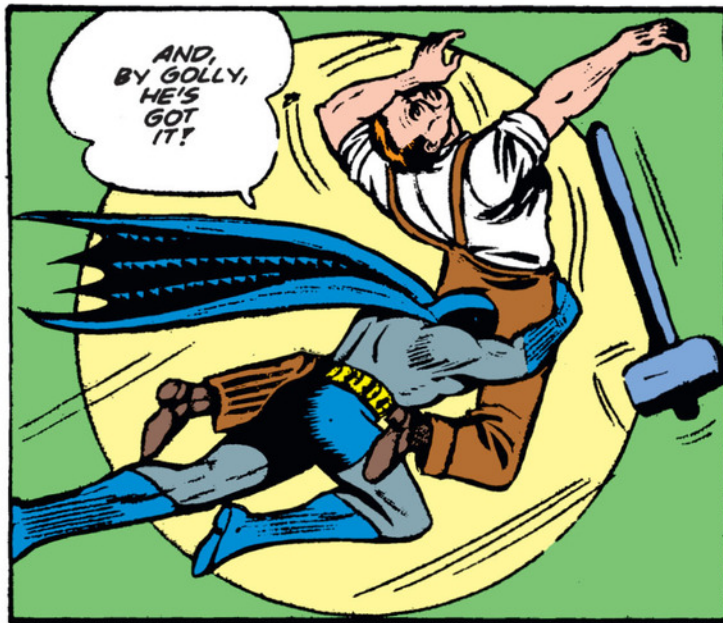
MINUTES LATER, BRUCE AND LINDA WALK TOWARD THE GREAT AVIATION PLANT!

BRUCE-- IT'S REALLY INSPIRING!

I SEE YOU WANT ME TO GET INTERESTED IN AVIATION SO I'LL FIND MYSELF SOME SORT OF OCCUPATION! SORRY--



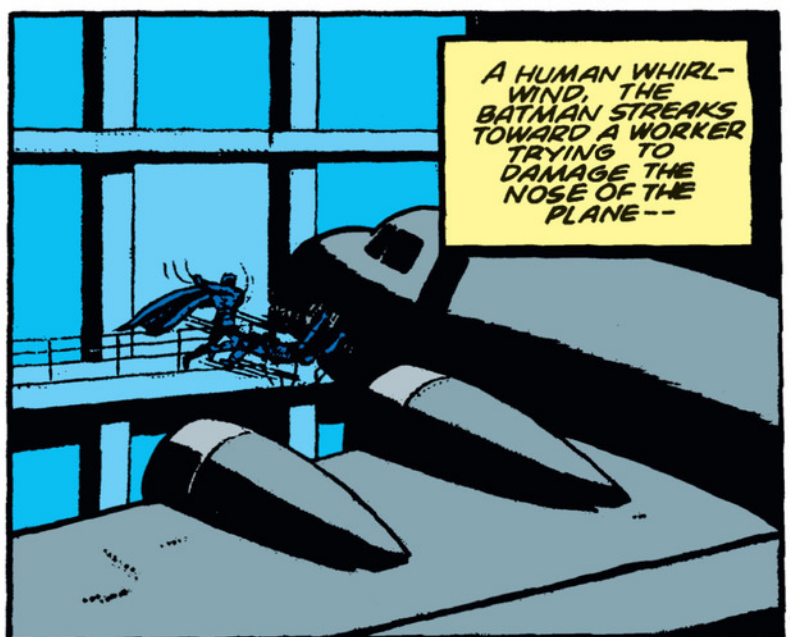


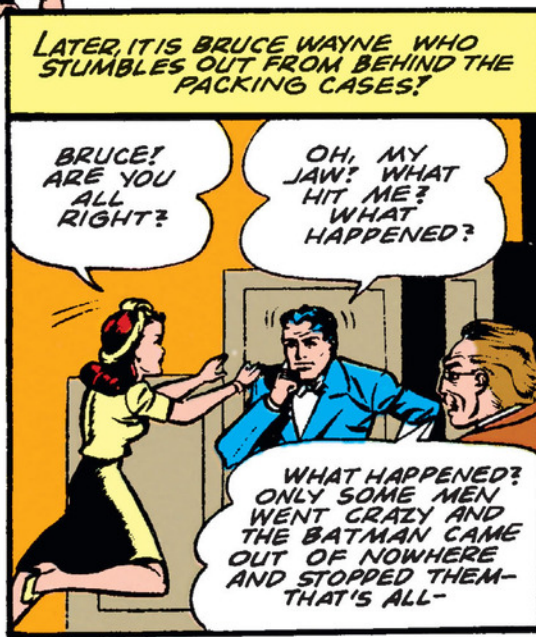
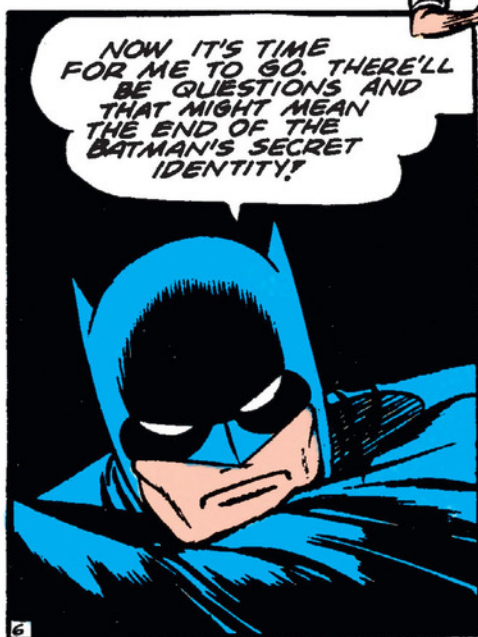
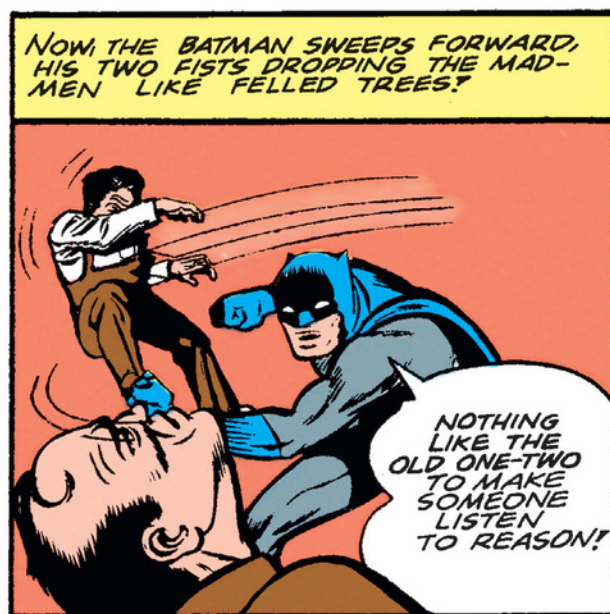
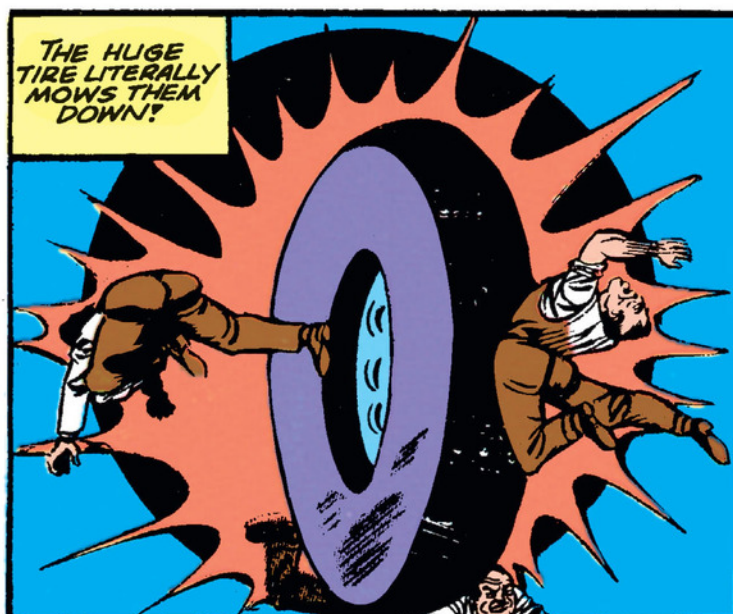
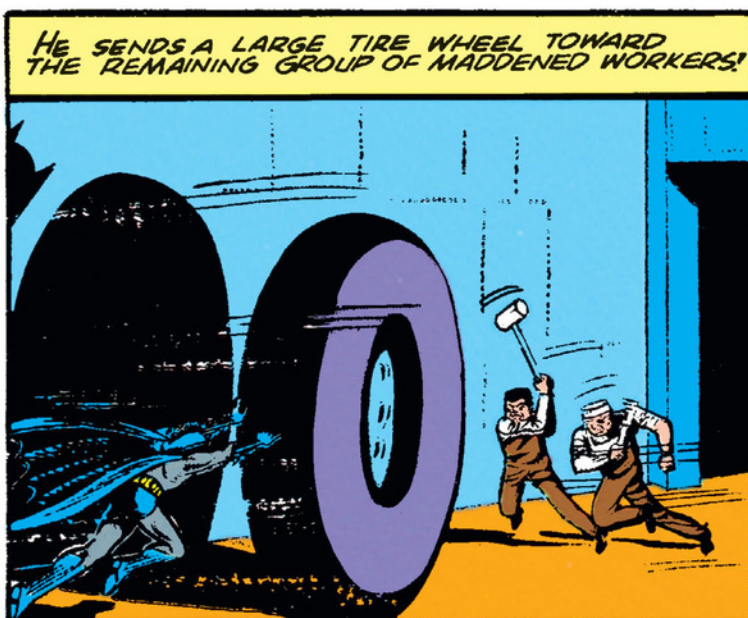
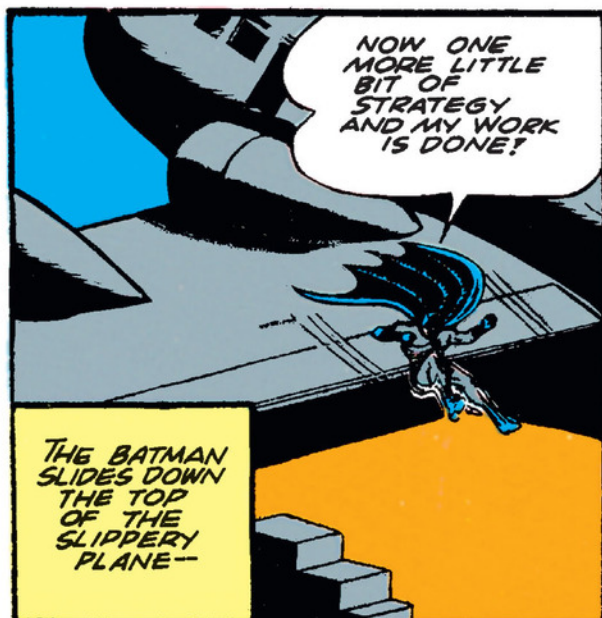


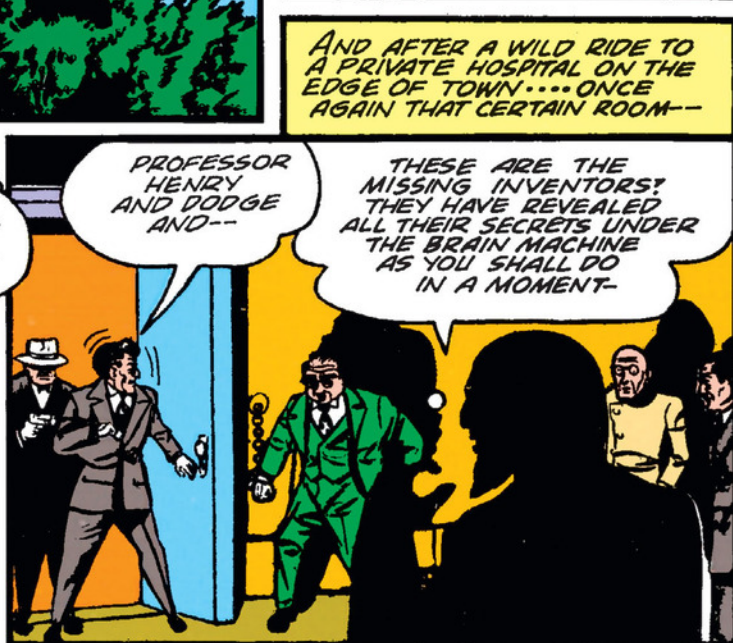
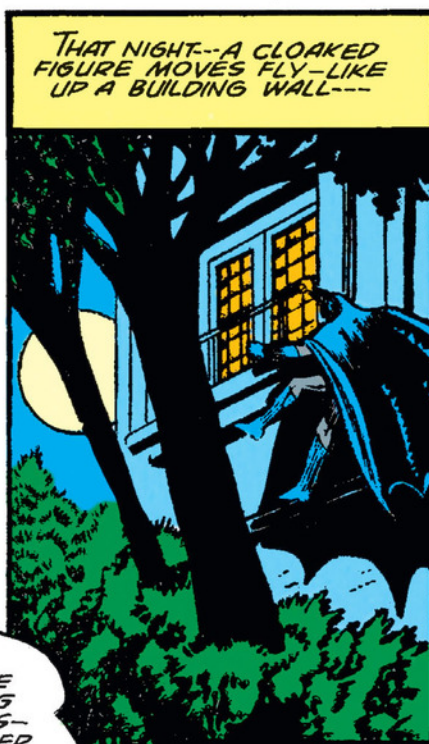
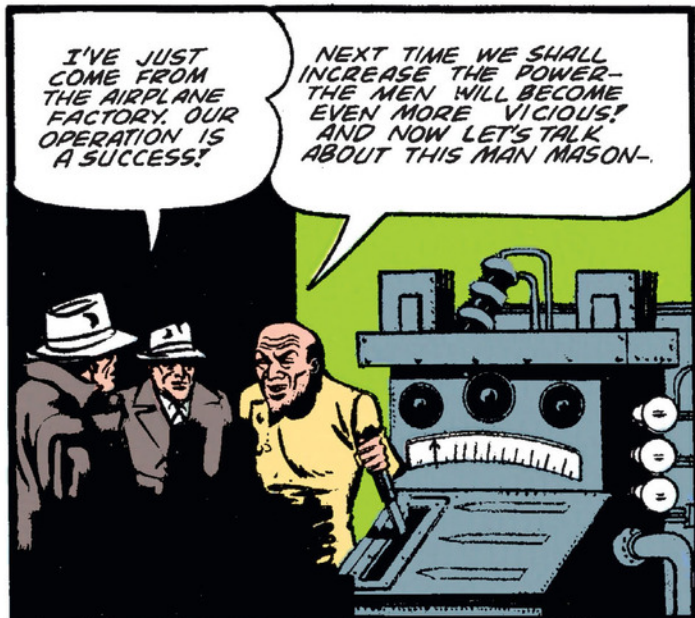
AS OTHER MEN RUSH TOWARD HIM, THE BATMAN STOOPS, HIS HAND REACHING FOR A LENGTH OF HOSE---



AND SNAPS IT AT THE CRAZED WORKERS LIKE A WHIP?







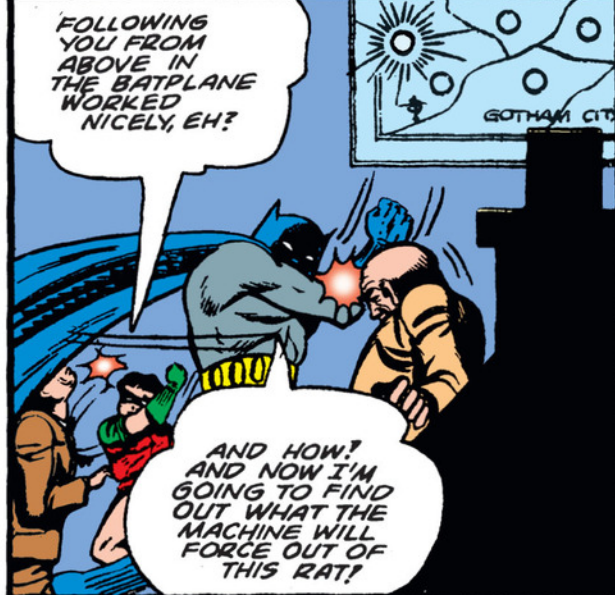
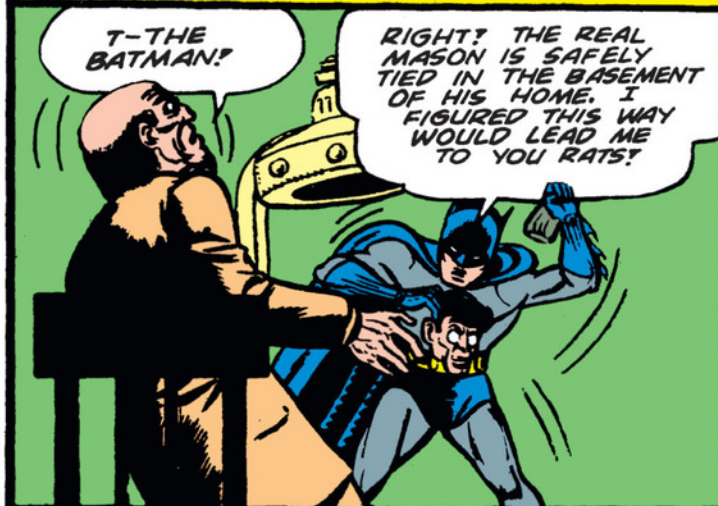
HE IS FORCED UNDER THE BRAIN MACHINE THAT FORCES HIM TO TELL THE TRUTH--



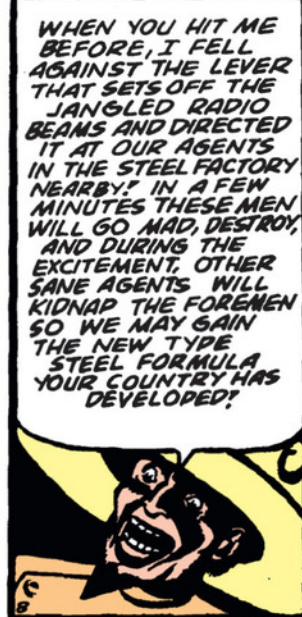
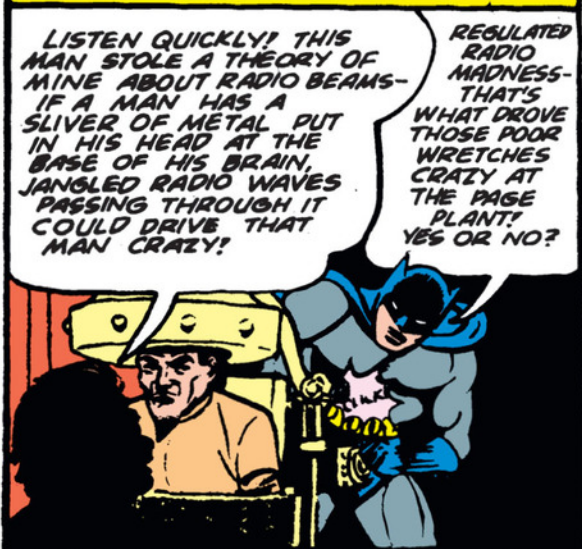
IN THE MOMENTS THAT FOLLOW, DEKER QUESTIONS THE MAN. SUDDENLY, ROBIN BREAKS INTO THE ROOM--

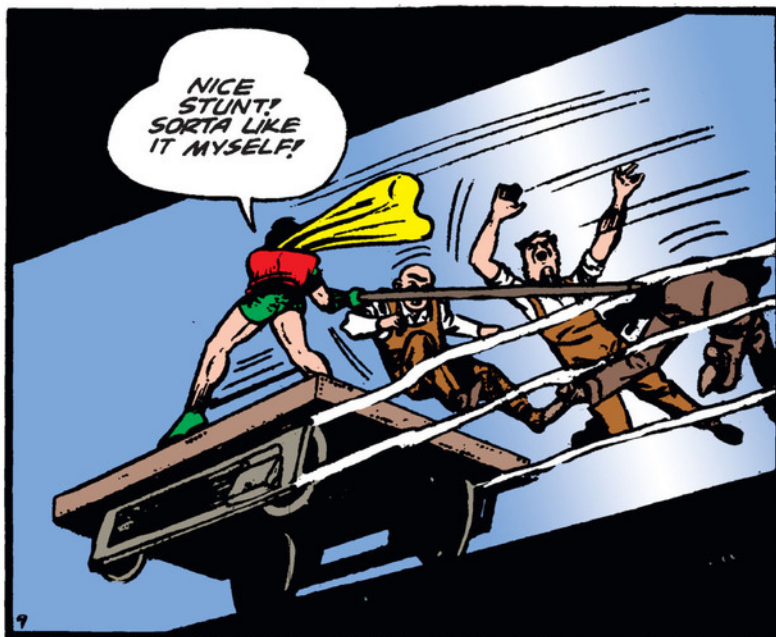
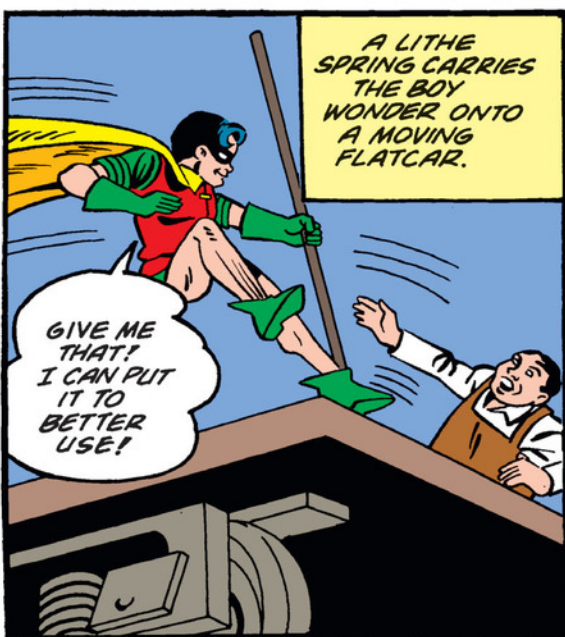
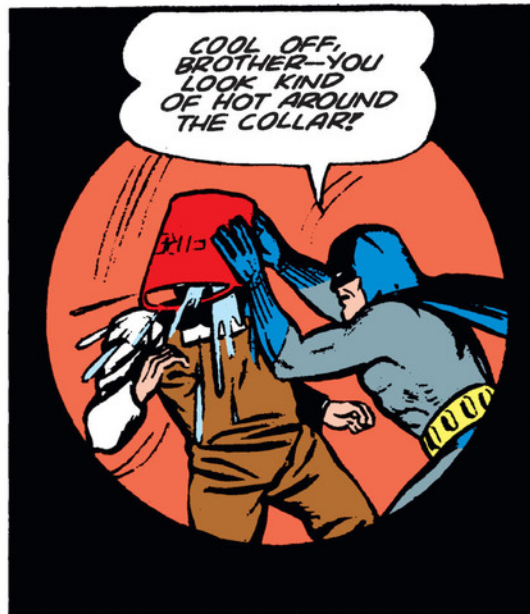
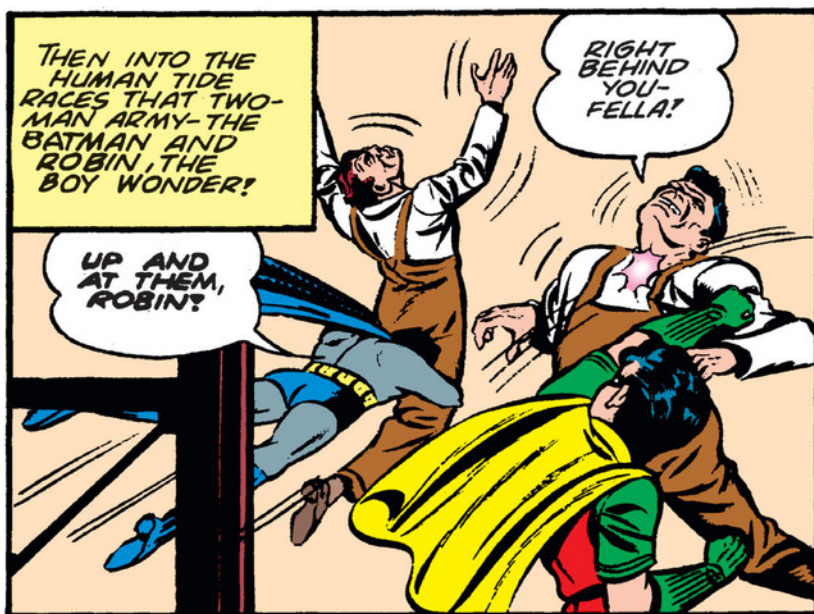
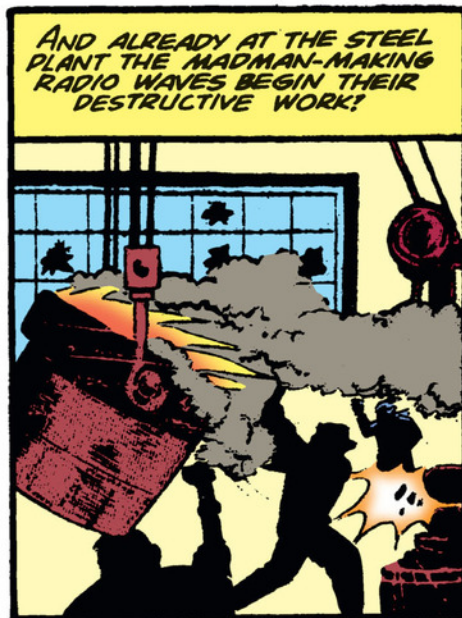


SUDDENLY: THE MAN UNDER THE BRAIN MACHINE WHIPS OFF A CLEVER DISGUISE AND STANDS REVEALED AS--



ROBIN FREES THE PRISONERS AS DEKER IS PUT UNDER THE MACHINE





UPON THE CATWALK, THE BATMAN COMES TO GRIPS WITH A CRAZED AGENT?



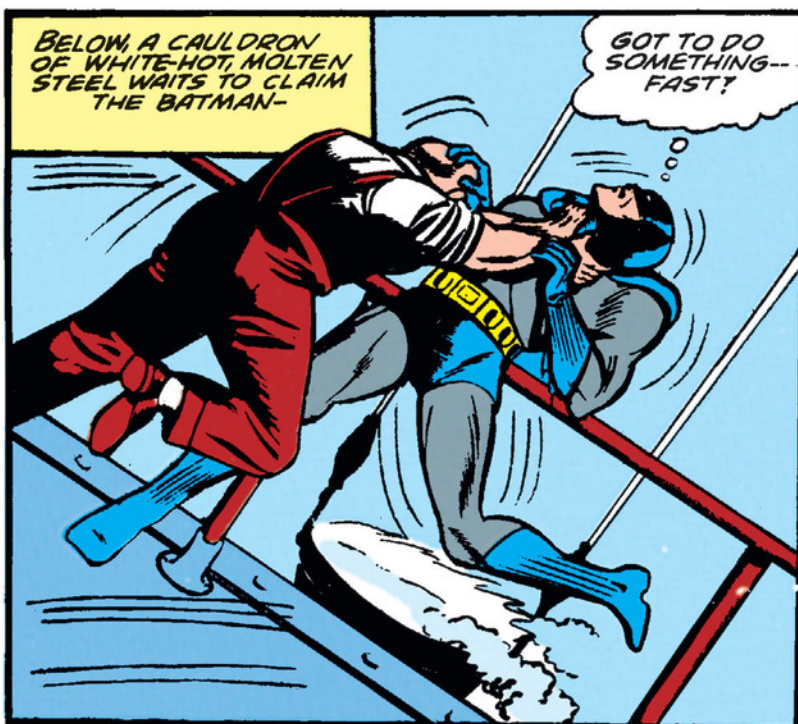
HOLY SMOKE!
THAT SOCK
DIDN'T EVEN
FAZE HIM!
THAT GUY'S
SO CRAZY
HE DOESN'T
EVEN FEEL
IT!

WITH THE FRENZIED
STRENGTH OF A MADMAN,
THE AGENT HURLS HIM-
SELF AT THE BATMAN,
FORCING HIM TO THE
CATWALK RAILING?--



KILL-
KILL?

BELOW, A CAULDRON
OF WHITE-HOT, MOLTEN
STEEL WAITS TO CLAIM
THE BATMAN--

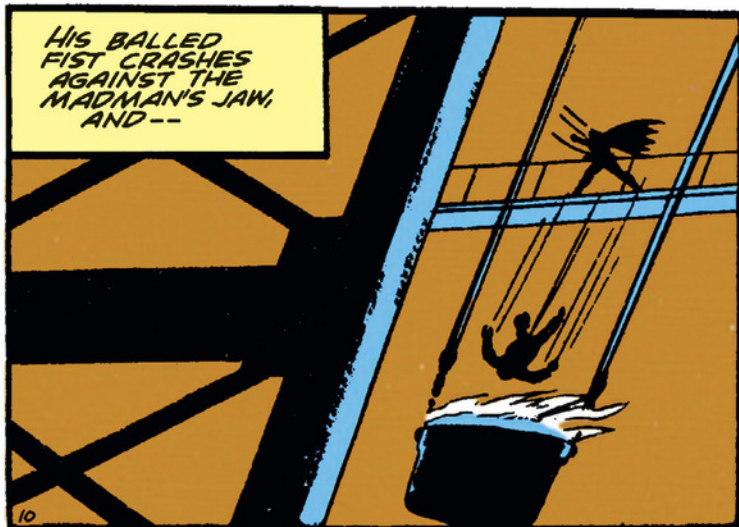


GOT TO DO
SOMETHING--
FAST!

WITH A TITANIC EFFORT BORN
OF DESPERATION, THE BATMAN TEARS
HIMSELF FREE--



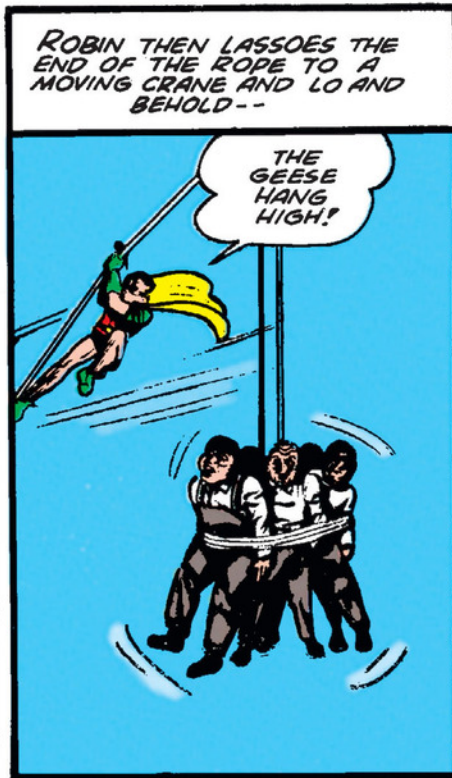
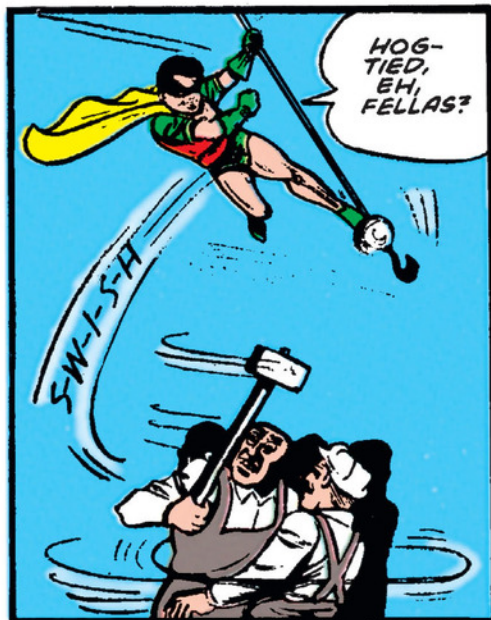
HIS BALLED
FIST CRASHES
AGAINST THE
MADMAN'S JAW,
AND--



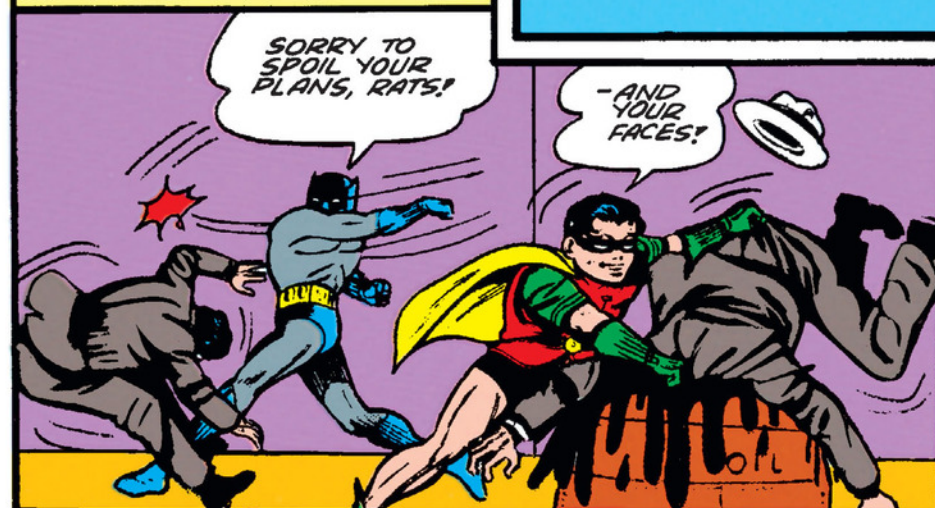
RIDE
'EM,
COWBOY!

MEANWHILE, ROBIN
HANDLES HIS END
OF THE JOB.
RIDING A HOIST
CHAIN, HE TWIRLS
HIS SILKEN
ROPE--

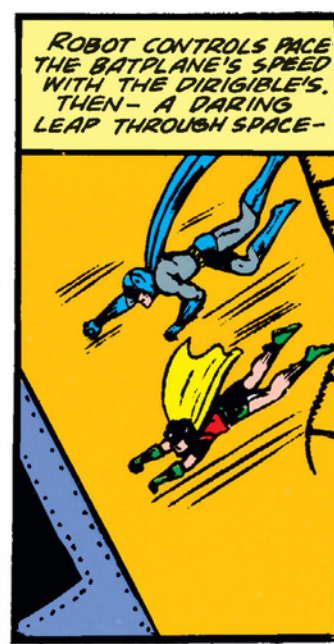
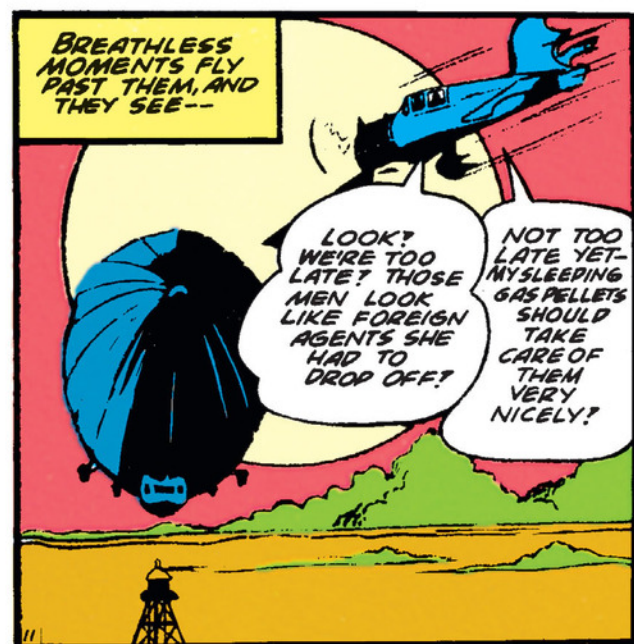
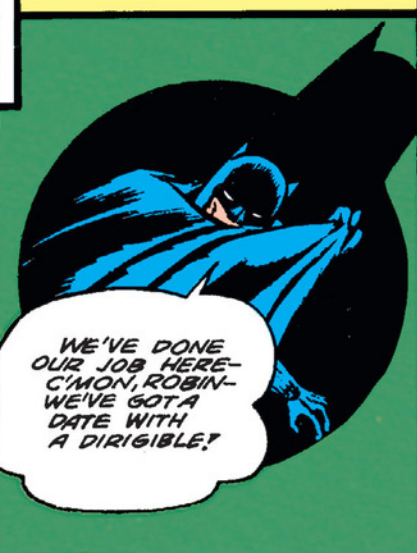


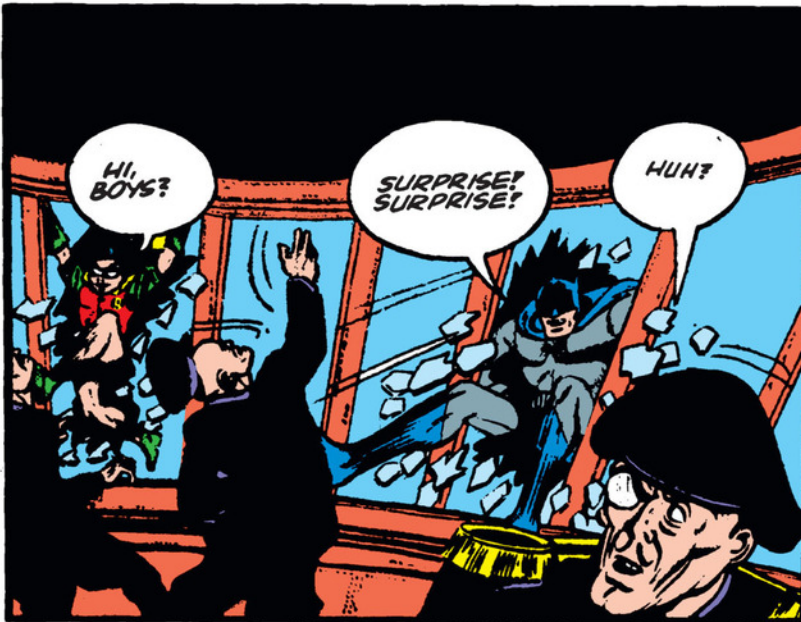


A WINDMILL OF FLYING FISTS ROUTS THE FIFTH COLUMNISTS....



AND AS GUARDS TAKE OVER....

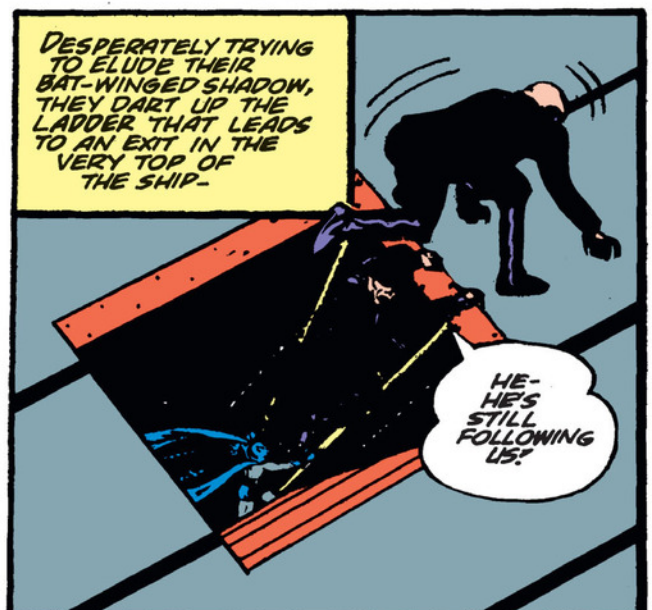




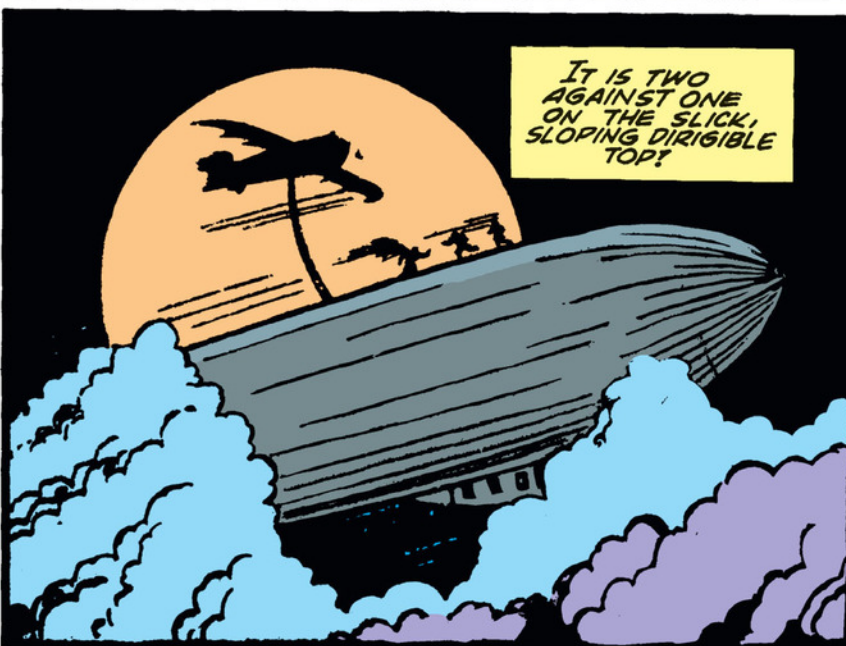
FRIGHTENED, TWO COWARDLY AGENTS FLEE INTO THE ZEPPELIN'S INTERIOR, WITH THE BATMAN IN FULL PURSUIT!



DESPERATELY TRYING TO ELUDE THEIR BAT-WINGED SHADOW, THEY DART UP THE LADDER THAT LEADS TO AN EXIT IN THE VERY TOP OF THE SHIP--

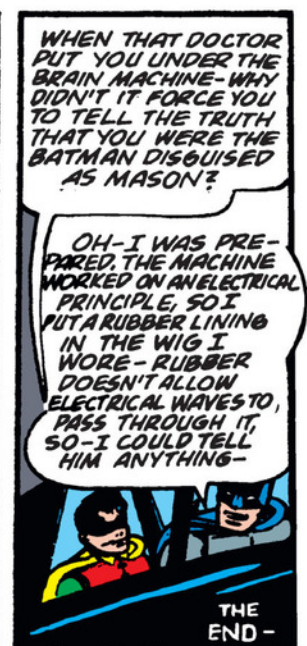
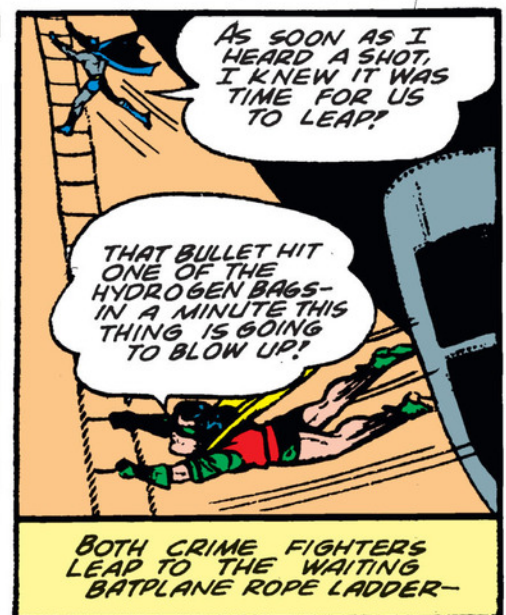
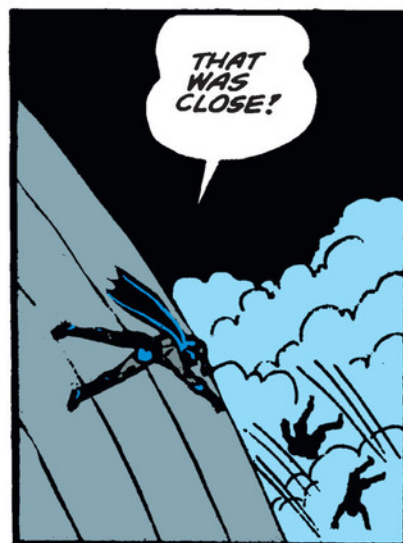
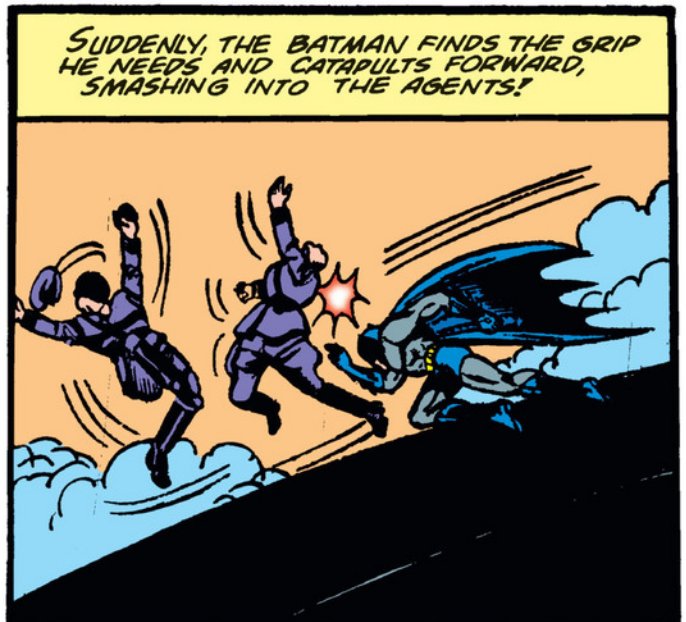
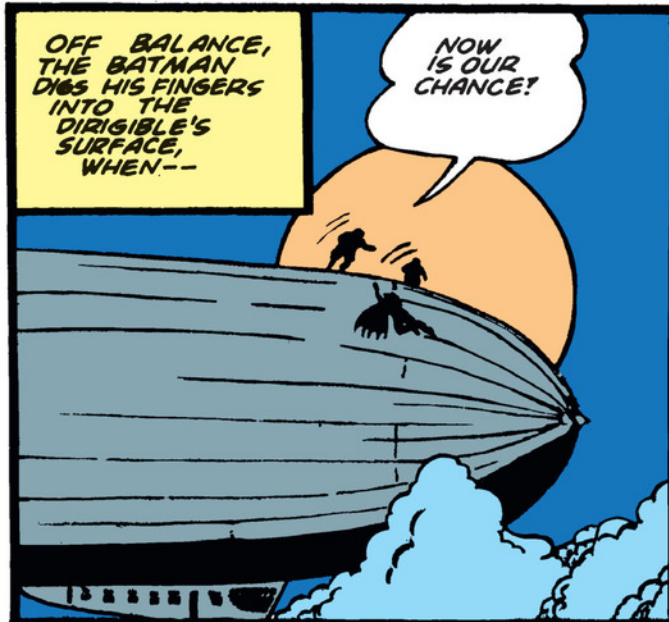


IT IS TWO AGAINST ONE ON THE SLICK, SLOPING DIRIGIBLE TOP!



CAUGHT OFF GUARD FOR AN INSTANT, A SUDDEN BLOW SENDS THE BATMAN STAGGERING BACK--







No. 56



The **BATMAN**

Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

OCT.

COMICS



BOB
KANE

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

HIGH ABOVE GHOST GULCH CITY SITS THE STONE IDOL ON HIS THRONE; AT HIS FEET, THE INDIANS KNELT AND WORSHIPPED—TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO. AND WHEN THE STONE IDOL FALLS FROM HIS MOUNTAIN TOP—HE STRIKES TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GHOST GULCH CITY—AS HE COMES STALKING, WITH HIS STRANGE FOLLOWERS TO HAUNT THE TOWN! ONLY THE NIMBLE BRAIN AND QUICK BODY OF THE BATMAN, ABETTED BY ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, IS ABLE TO COMBAT THE TERRIBLE MENACE, AND BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF "THE STONE IDOL!"

JOE
KANE

VACATION-BOUND ACROSS THE VAST UNITED STATES GO BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON---

SAY---WHAT SORT OF TOWN IS THIS? LOOKS LIKE A GOOD STIFF WIND WOULD BLOW IT AWAY!

THIS IS A GHOST TOWN! PEOPLE USED TO MINE SILVER TILL THE VEIN RAN OUT--SO DID THE PEOPLE EXCEPT A FEW WHO HAD NO PLACE TO GO!

GHOST GULCH CITY---ONCE A ROARING SILVER MINING TOWN--NOW A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST. QUEER CHARACTERS MAKE UP GHOST GULCH---MEN LIKE MAD MACK--

I TELL YE, IF THAT THERE STONE IDOL EVER MOVES--THERE'LL BE THE DEVIL TO PAY IN GHOST GULCH!

MAD MACK--THEY NAMED YER RIGHT WHEN THEY CALLED YOU THAT?

MAYBE HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH?

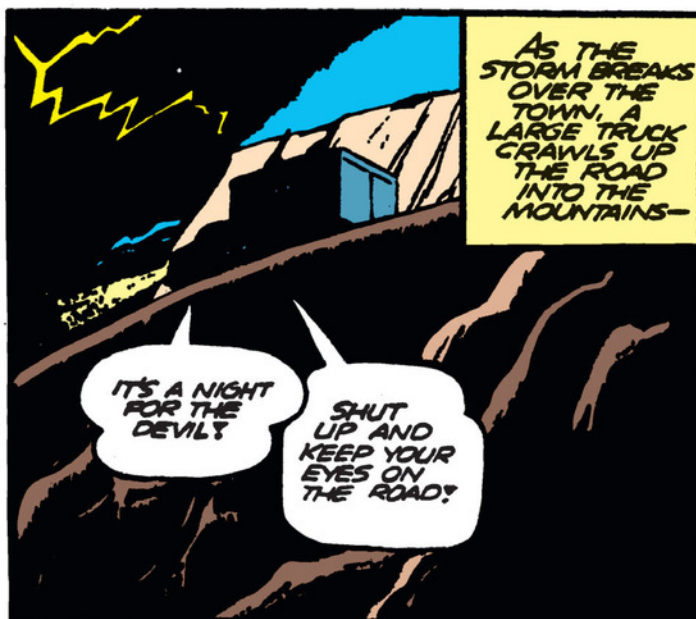


YOU'RE RIGHT-- DON'T FORGET WHAT I WARNED YA-- WATCH OUT FOR THE STONE IDOL! AND WITH THIS STORM COMIN' ON, HE MAY CRASH AT ANY TIME!



WE'D LIKE A ROOM, PLEASE.

YEP--SURE YOU WOULD? LOOKS LIKE A BAD STORM COMIN'!

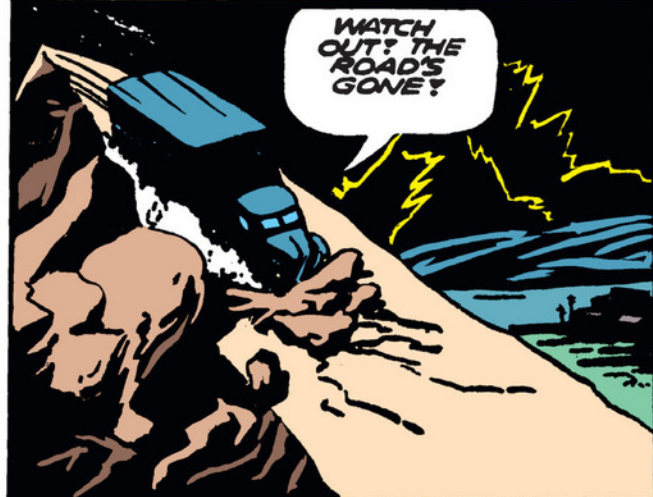


AS THE STORM BREAKS OVER THE TOWN, A LARGE TRUCK CRAWLS UP THE ROAD INTO THE MOUNTAINS--

IT'S A NIGHT FOR THE DEVIL

SHUT UP AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!

SUDDENLY THE ROAD STARTS GIVING WAY, AND A GIANT HOLE YAWNS AS THE TRUCK SPEEDS FORWARD--



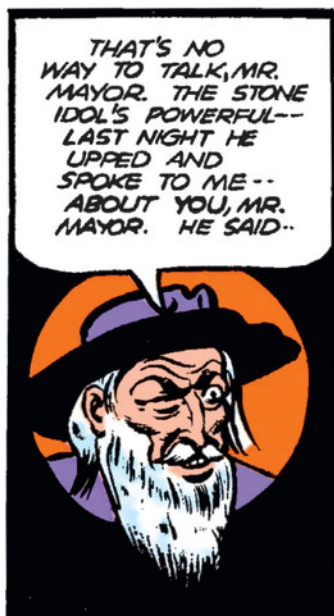
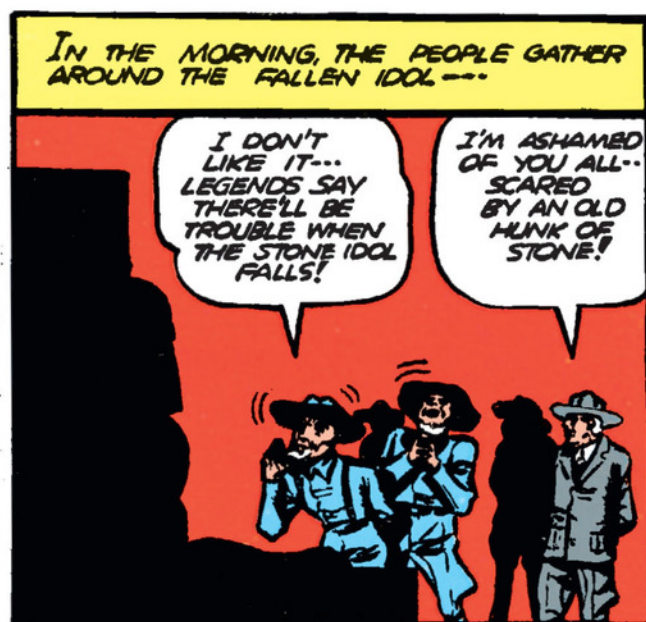
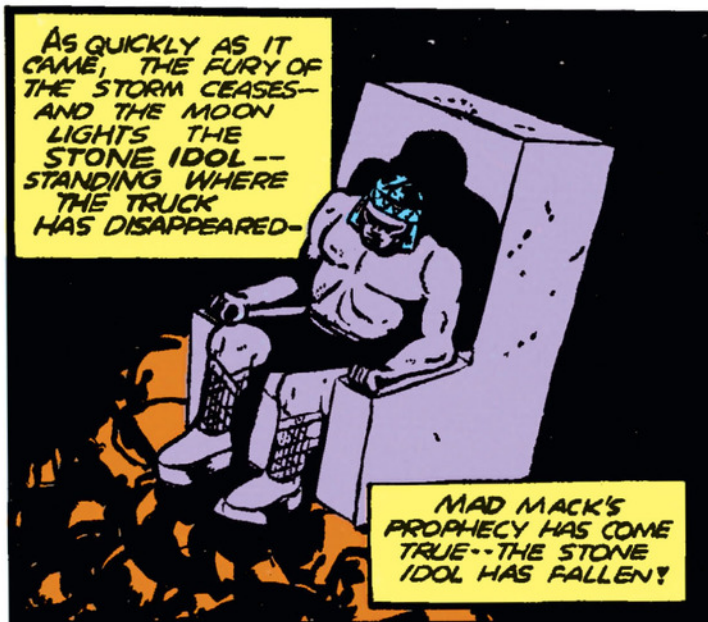
WATCH OUT! THE ROAD'S GONE!

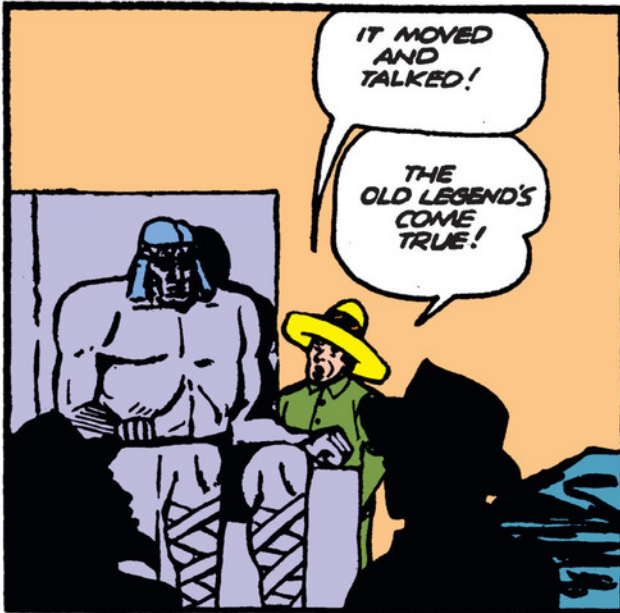
LIGHTNING BLASTS AT THE VERY FEET OF THE STONE IDOL!



AND AFTER A 2000-YEAR REIGN, THE GOD OF STONE PLUNGES FROM HIS MOUNTAIN!

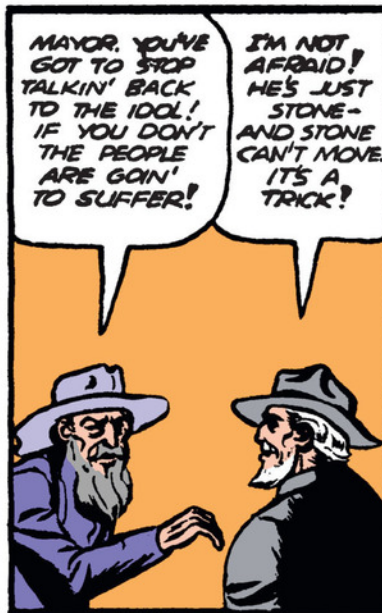






IT MOVED
AND
TALKED!

THE
OLD LEGEND'S
COME
TRUE!



MAYOR, YOU'VE
GOT TO STOP
TALKIN' BACK
TO THE IDOL!
IF YOU DON'T
THE PEOPLE
ARE GOIN'
TO SUFFER!

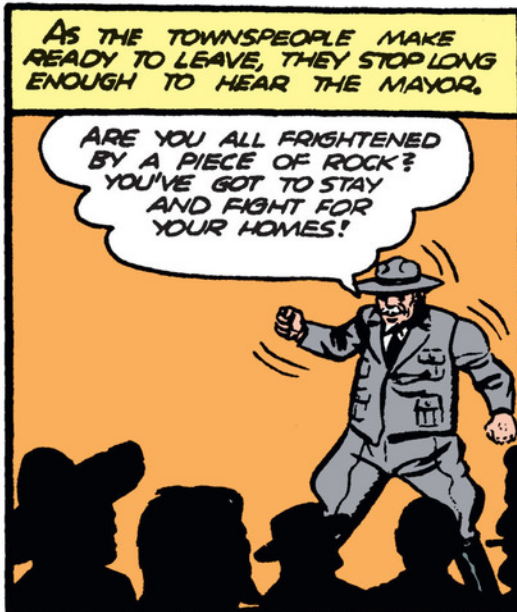
I'M NOT
AFRAID!
HE'S JUST
STONE-
AND STONE
CAN'T MOVE.
IT'S A
TRICK!



BUT THE PEOPLE BELIEVE.
THEY HAVE LIVED HERE TOO
LONG AND HEARD TALES OF
THE IDOL TOO MANY TIMES...

THIS HOUSE
HAS BEEN OUR
HOME FOR SUCH
A LONG TIME,
I HATE TO LEAVE!

MAYBE YOU'D
RATHER STAY AND
BRING DOWN THE
WRATH OF THE
STONE IDOL!

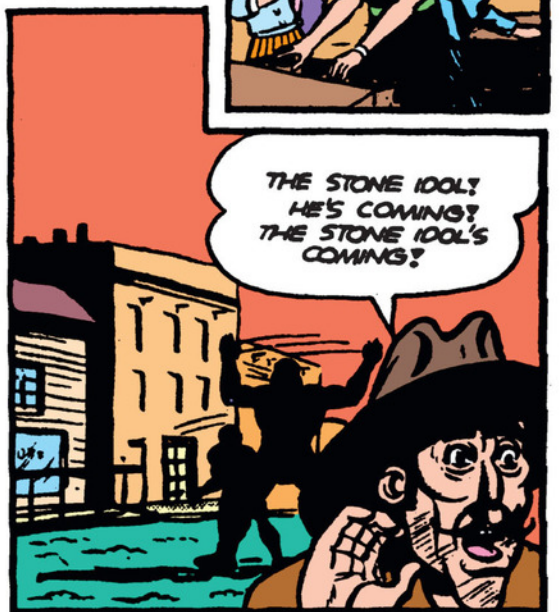


AS THE TOWNSPEOPLE MAKE
READY TO LEAVE, THEY STOP LONG
ENOUGH TO HEAR THE MAYOR.

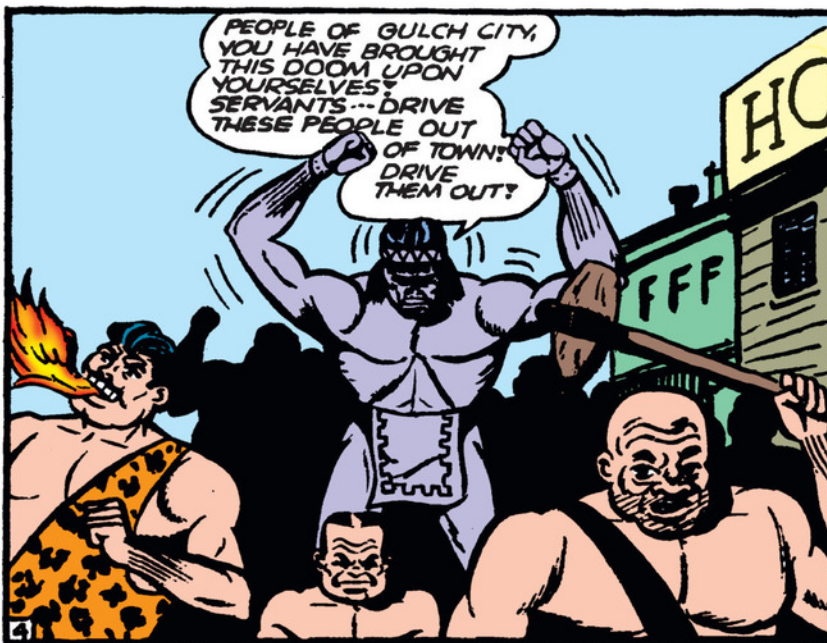
ARE YOU ALL FRIGHTENED
BY A PIECE OF ROCK?
YOU'VE GOT TO STAY
AND FIGHT FOR
YOUR HOMES!



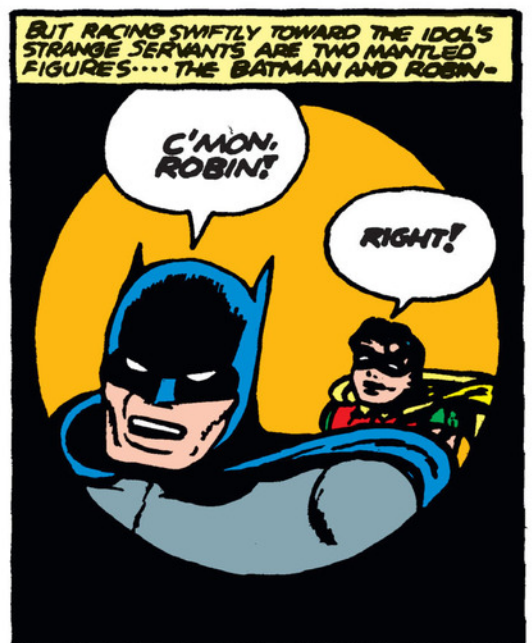
THE
STONE
IDOL IS
COMIN'
WITH HIS
SERVANTS!



THE STONE IDOL!
HE'S COMING!
THE STONE IDOL'S
COMING!



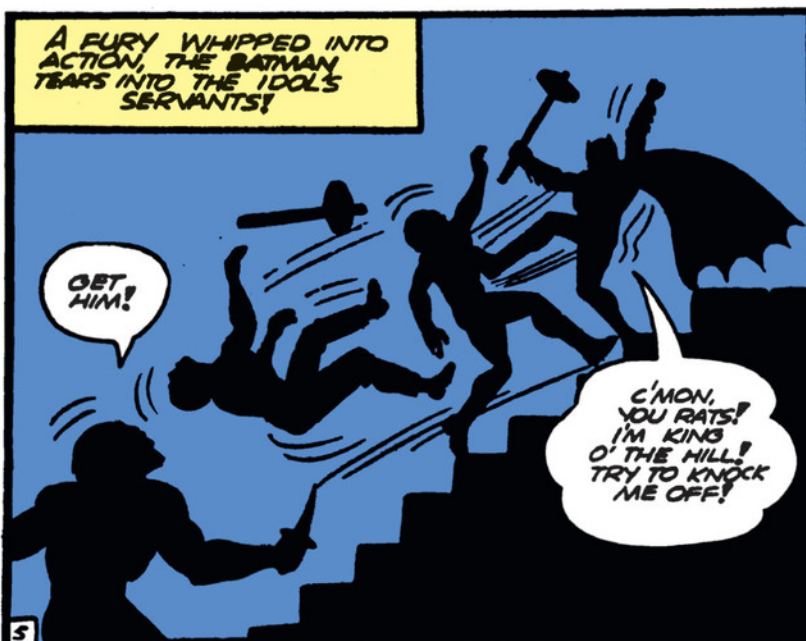
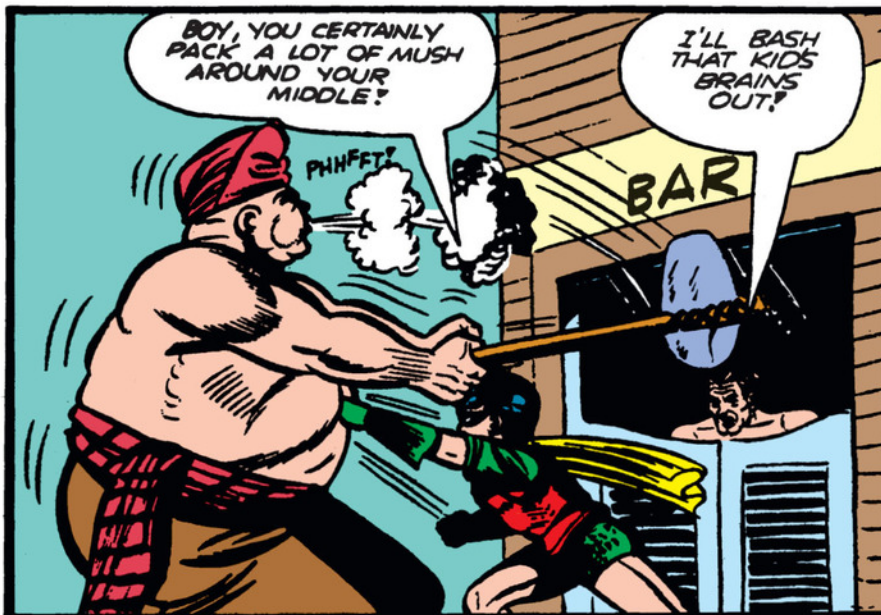
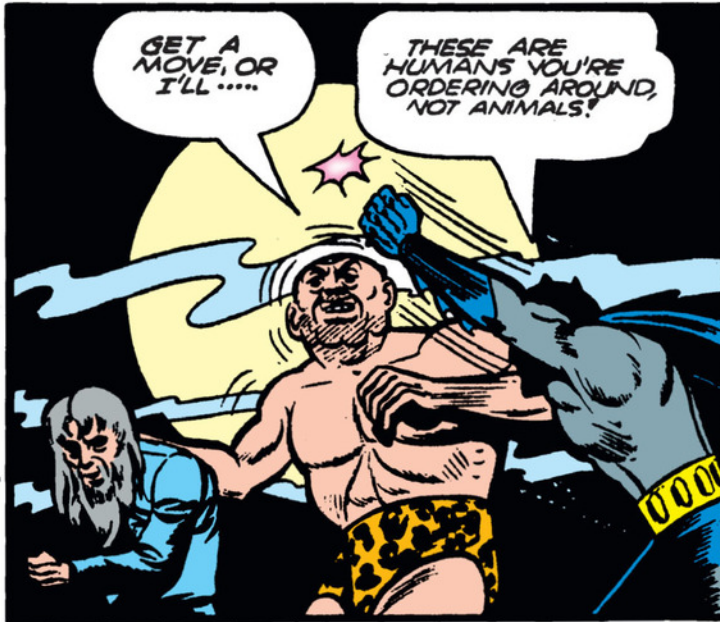
PEOPLE OF GULCH CITY,
YOU HAVE BROUGHT
THIS DOOM UPON
YOURSELVES!
SERVANTS... DRIVE
THESE PEOPLE OUT
OF TOWN!
DRIVE THEM OUT!

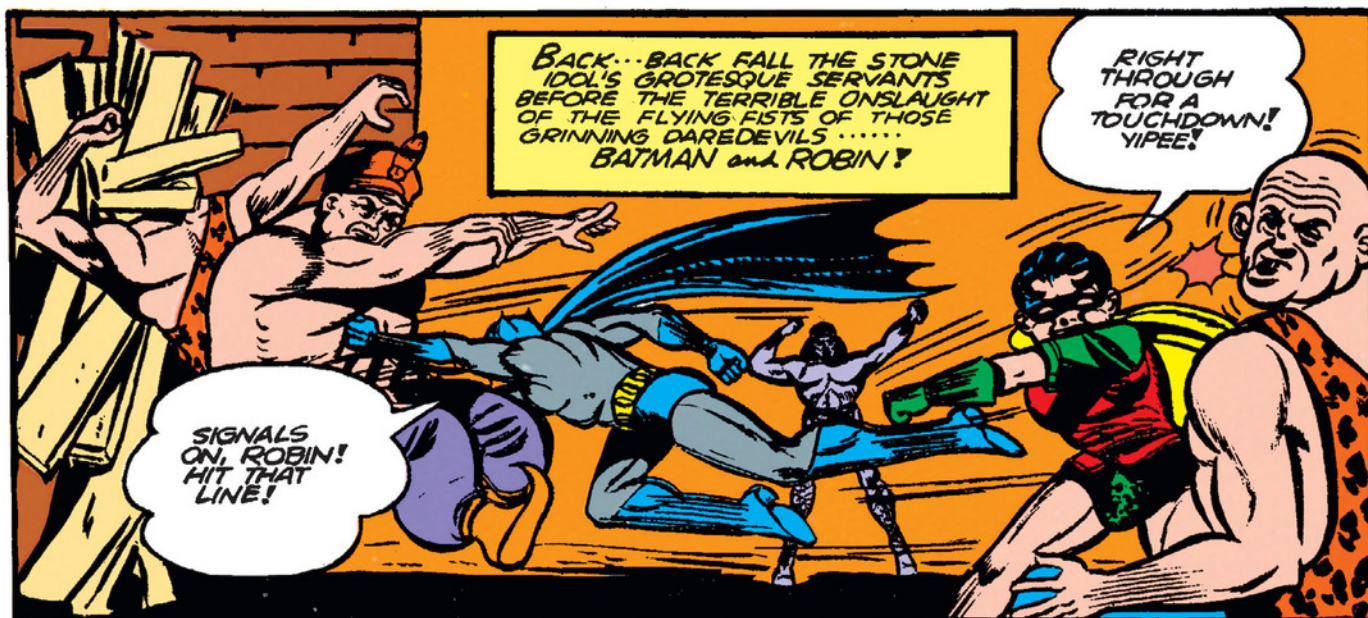


BUT RACING SWIFTLY TOWARD THE IDOL'S
STRANGE SERVANTS ARE TWO MANTLED
FIGURES... THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-

C'MON,
ROBIN!

RIGHT!

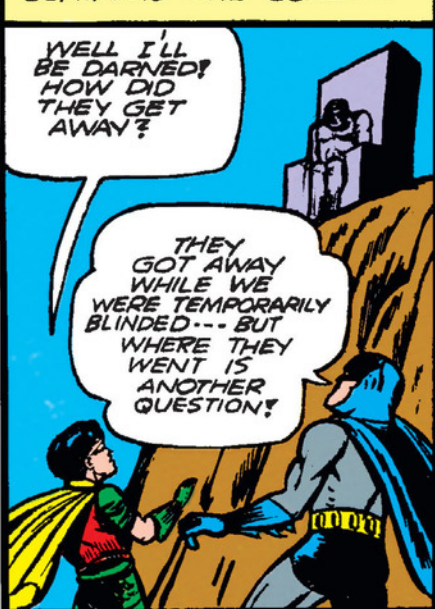




SUCCESSIVE FLASHES OF SILVER LIGHT SUDDENLY BLIND THE FIGHTING DUO!



WHEN THE LIGHT DIES DOWN, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEE THAT THE IDOL IS ONCE MORE ON HIS THRONE AND HIS SERVANTS ARE GONE....



THEY WERE MASKED!
WHOEVER THEY WERE, THEY CERTAINLY HAVE MY RESPECT! WHAT FIGHTERS?



AS SWIFTLY AS THEY CAME, THE TWO CAPED FIGURES DART BEHIND THE BUILDINGS!

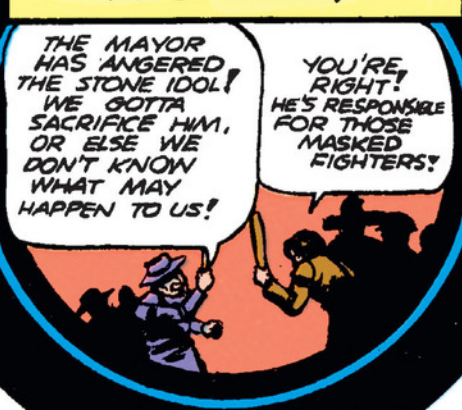
LATER IN THEIR HOTEL---

GOOD THING WE HAPPENED TO LOOK OUT OF OUR HOTEL WINDOW BEFORE AND SAW WHAT HAPPENED! DO YOU THINK THAT STONE IDOL CAN WALK?

THERE ARE LOTS OF STRANGE THINGS THAT MAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXPLAIN IN THE PAST. PERHAPS THE STONE IDOL IS ONE OF THEM....

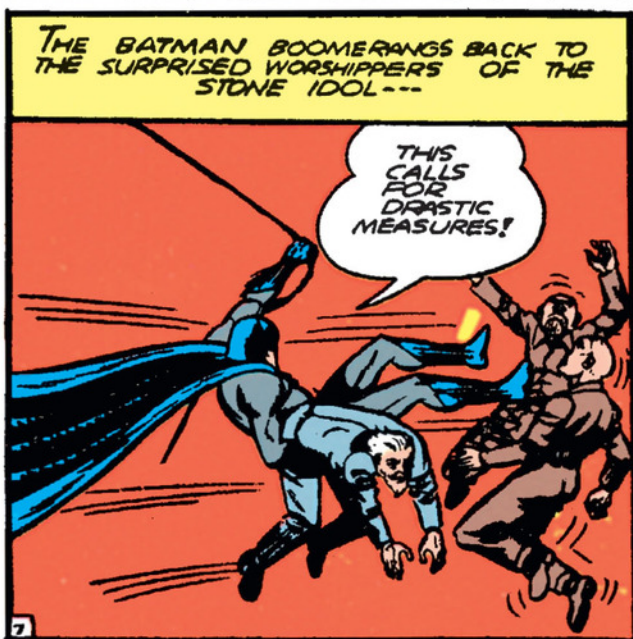
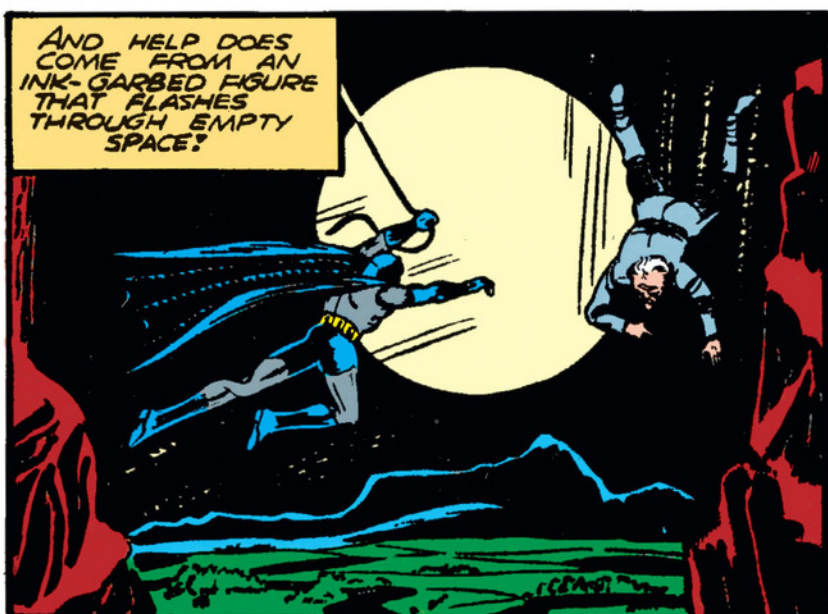


MAD MACK CONFERS WITH THE LINEASY TOWNSMEN AND WORKS THEM UP TILL THEY ARE TERROR CRAZED!



THE MAYOR IS SEIZED IN HIS HOME....



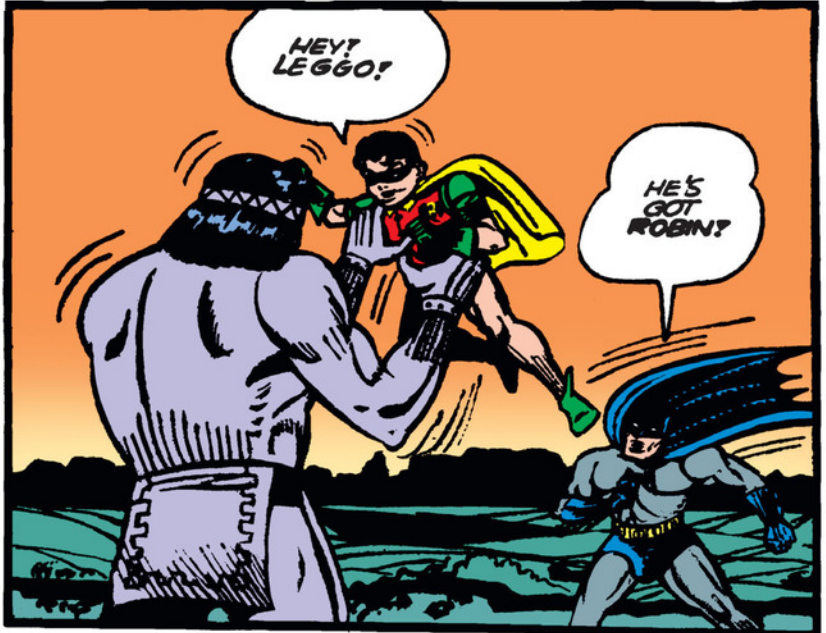


SUDDENLY A FLASH OF SILVER
LIGHT KNIFES THROUGH THE NIGHT--



HEY!
LEGGO!

HE'S
GOT
ROBIN?



ANOTHER BRILLIANT FLAME
OF INTENSE LIGHT BLINDS
THE CHARGING BATMAN!



I CAN'T
SEE!!

AND WHEN THE LIGHT DIES
DOWN AND SIGHT GRADUALLY
RETURNS TO THE BATMAN'S
TORTURED EYES, HE SEES---



ROBIN IS GONE!
WHAT DID YOU
DO WITH HIM?
SPEAK OR
I'LL--

WHAT....?
STONE---
IT REALLY
IS STONE!
STONE THAT
MOVES AND
SPEAKS?!



IT'S...IT'S
GONE--
CAN'T BE A
STONE
STATUE THAT
GRABBED
ROBIN! IT--
IT CAN'T
BE--YEP--
YET--



WORRIED, CURIOUS BY WHAT
HAS HAPPENED, BATMAN AND
THE MAYOR COMBINE THEIR
STRENGTH TO TOPPLE THE IDOL---



IT'S
GOING
OVER?

THAT
DOES
IT!

TO HIS SURPRISE, BATMAN
SEES A YAWNING CAVERN
BENEATH THE STATUE!



SOMEWHERE
DOWN BELOW
IS ROBIN! IDOLS,
OR WHAT HAVE
YOU, I'M GOING
IN THERE--ALONE--

GOOD
LUCK!
SON!

SILENTLY, THE BATMAN DROPS
DOWN INTO THE DIM CAVERN
BELOW THE GROUND--

A MINE?

WHAT'S THIS
CONTRAPTION!
LOOKS LIKE
A SORT OF
CRUDE ELEVATOR--
AND THIS--
IT'S ANOTHER
STONE THRONE.

THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO
BECOME CLEARER NOW--?

HUH?---
WELL---
WHERE
DID YOU
TWO DROP
FROM?

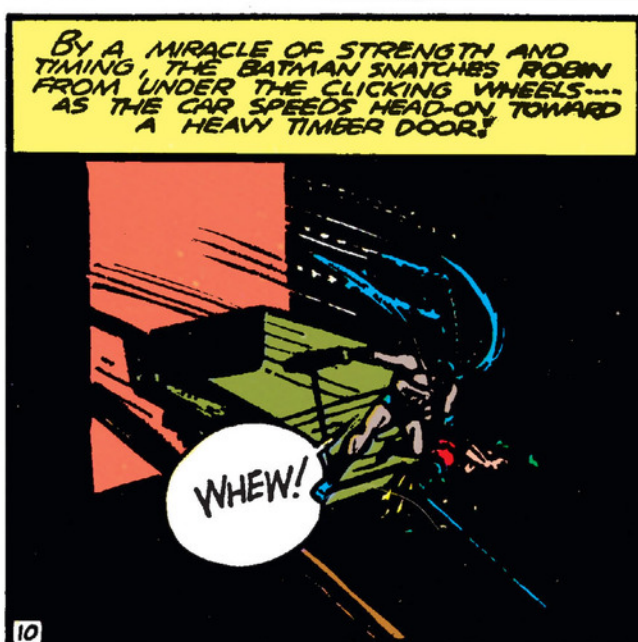
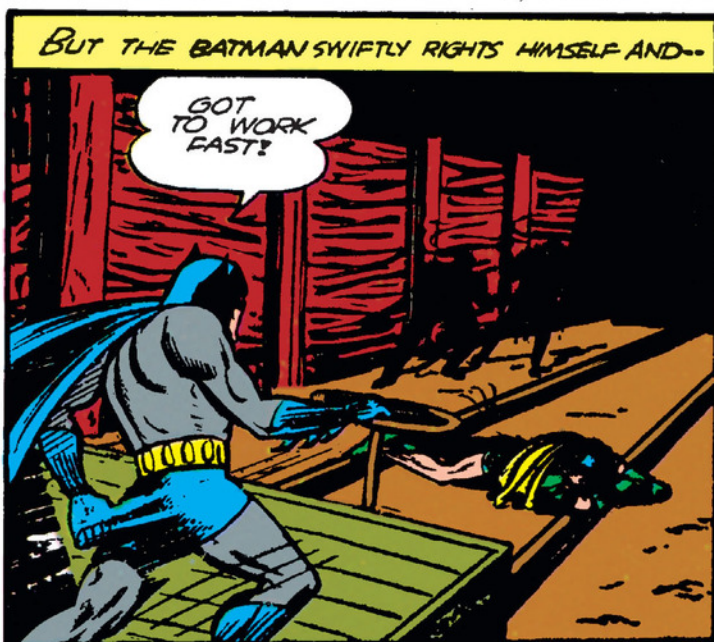
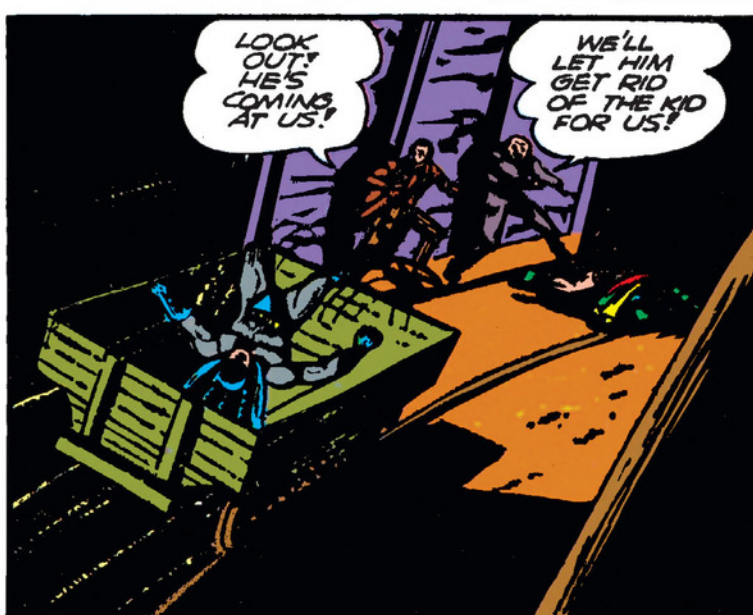
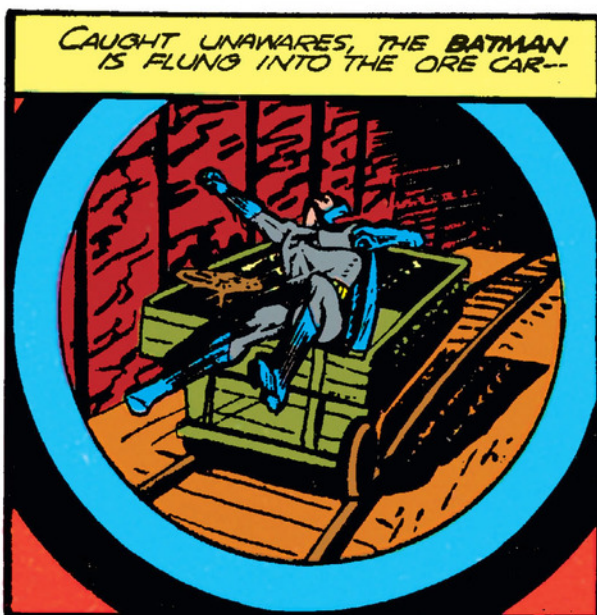
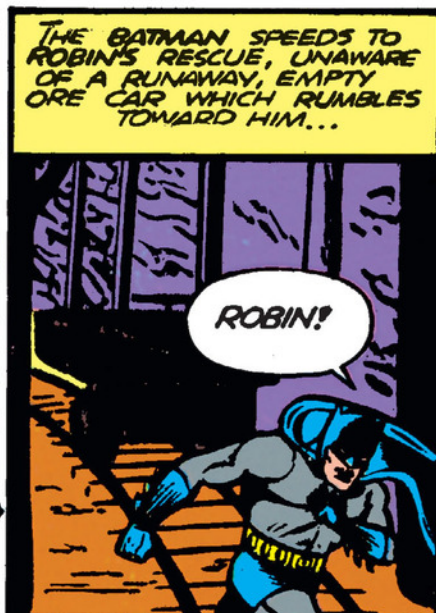
THAT
WILL
BE ALL
OF YOU!

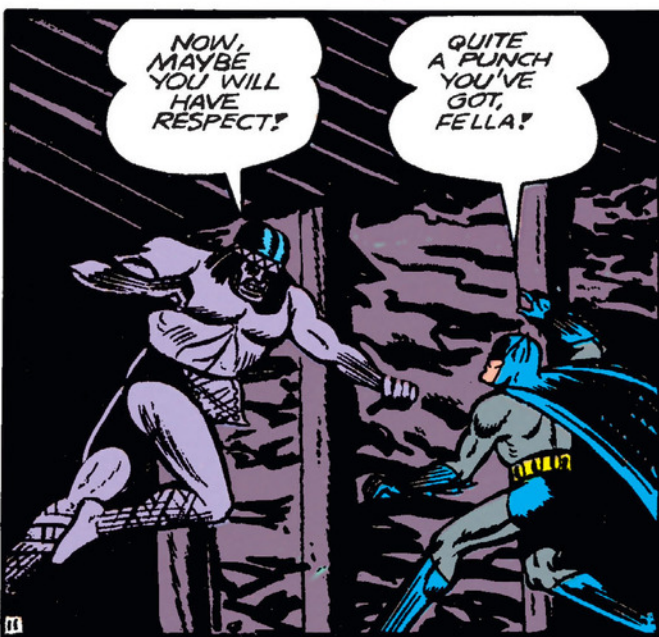
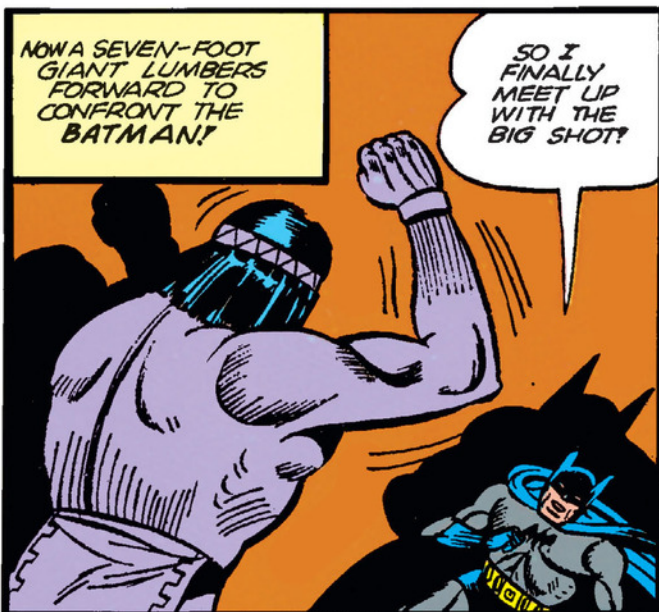
YOU DON'T
THINK I'D
NEGLECT
YOU,
DID
YOU?

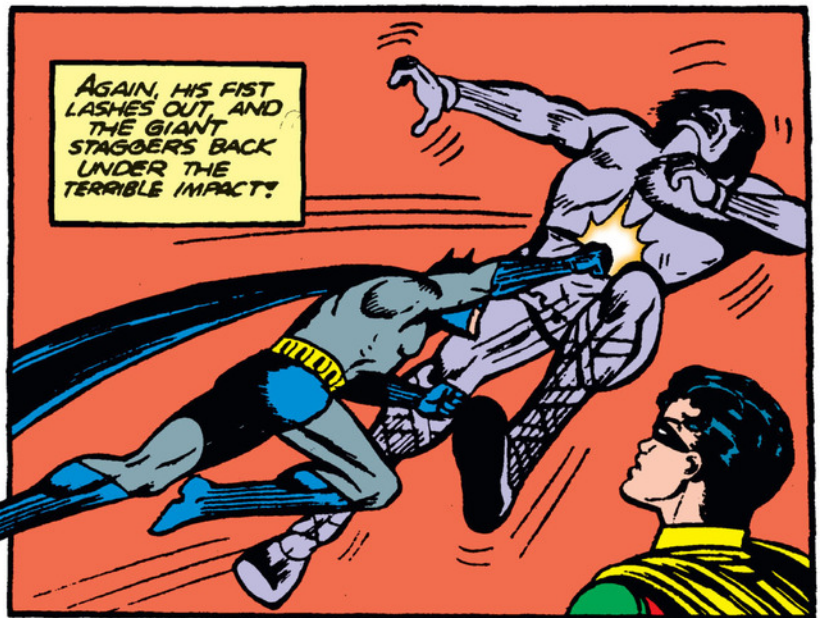
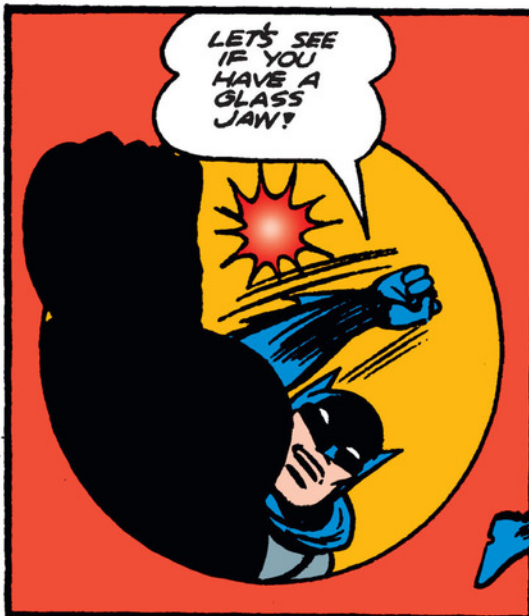
THEN A VOICE---AND A STARTLING SIGHT---

ONE
MOVE AND
I'LL SEND A
BULLET THROUGH
YOUR LITTLE
FRIEND!

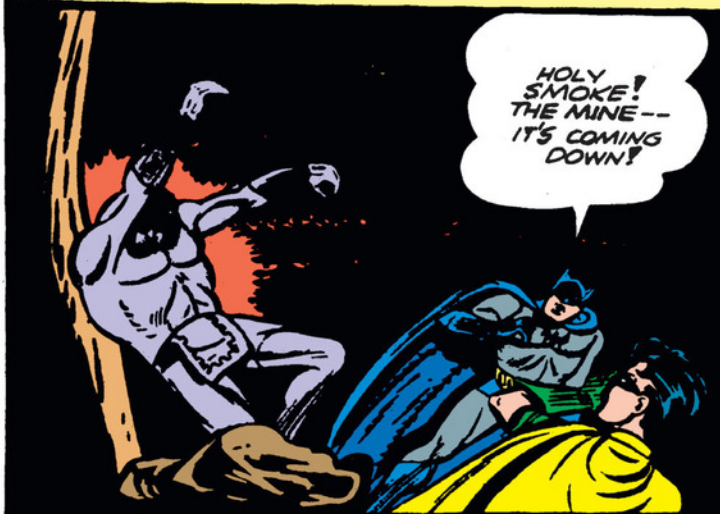
IF YOU HARM THAT
BOY, I'LL SEND YOU
DOWN SO DEEP, NO
MINER WILL EVER BE
ABLE TO FIND YOU!



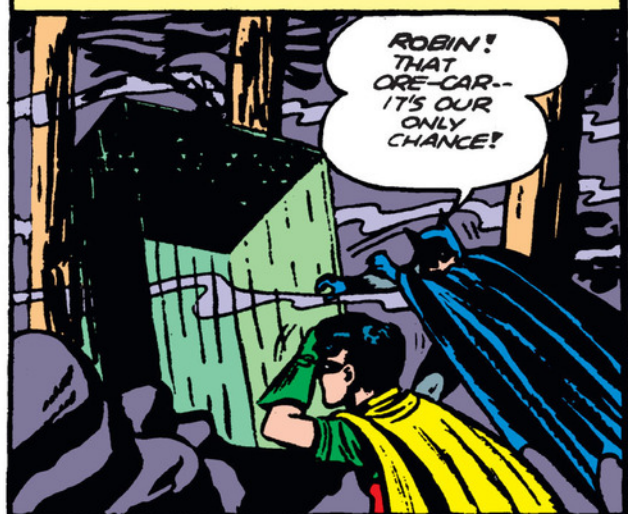




HIS HEAVY BODY SMASHES AGAINST A BEAM SUPPORTING THE MINE CEILING, AND THE BEAM GIVES AWAY----



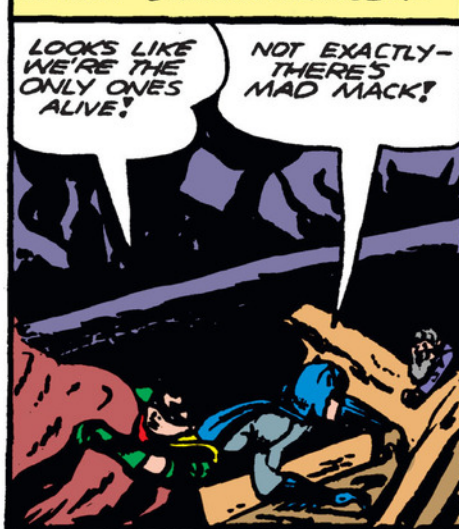
IN ONE SPLIT-SECOND MOMENT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DIVE FOR THE ORE-CAR----



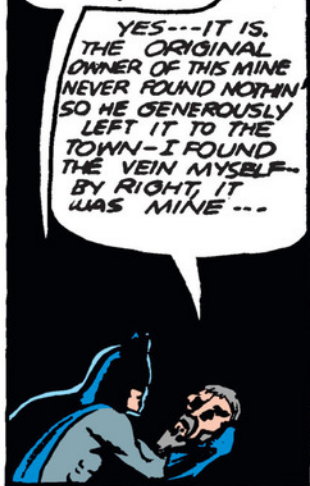
---AND PULL ITS THICK-WALLED PROTECTION OVER THEM AS TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK COLLAPSE?



SOMETIME LATER---TWO HUMAN MOLES DIG THEIR WAY THROUGH THE LOOSE EARTH---BATMAN AND ROBIN---



MAD MACK, YOU'RE DYING. BEFORE YOU DO, TELL ME--THIS IS A VALUABLE SILVER MINE, ISN'T IT?



"HOW COULD I WORK THE MINE WITHOUT SHARING IT WITH THE TOWN? THEN IT HAPPENED. ONE NIGHT A TRUCK SLIPPED INTO THE MINE..."

SURE... WE'RE A TRAVELING CIRCUS.

WE HAVE TO TRAVEL. THE SHERIFFS AROUND HERE DON'T LIKE US?



"I KNEW AT ONCE THEY WERE THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM."

"THEY WERE LIKE THE DEVILS THEMSELVES. WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE MINE-- WE QUICKLY THOUGHT UP A PLAN."

SEE? THIS BLACK WIG AND PAINT WILL MAKE OUR STRONG MAN LOOK LIKE THAT STONE IDOL THESE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT SO MUCH!

FINE! WE'LL MAKE THESE OTHERS TO LOOK LIKE HIS SERVANTS. THEN I'LL START TELLING THE PEOPLE THAT THE IDOL HAS COME TO LIFE.



YE SAY THIS FLASH-LIGHT POWDER WILL BLIND THE PEOPLE FOR A COUPLA MINUTES OR SO?

RIGHT. THEN WE WORK THE SHIFT WITH THIS HAND-MADE ELEVATOR. THE REAL STONE IDOL COMES DOWN AND THE STRONG MAN GOES UP!



"WE FIGURED WE SCARE EVERYBODY OUTA TOWN SO WE COULD WORK THE MINE AND SPLIT THE PROFITS."

IT WOULD'VE WORKED IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MAYOR --- NOW I'M DYING --- GUESS --- I GOT WHAT'S COMIN' TO ME ---



...I'M SORRY I WAS--A GREEDY OLD MAN---
---I---



LATER, AFTER EXPLANATIONS--

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU TWO AGAIN WHEN THE EARTH CAVED IN! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNERS FOR SURE.

FRANKLY... FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES, WE THOUGHT SO, TOO. BUT I GUESS WE WERE LUCKY!



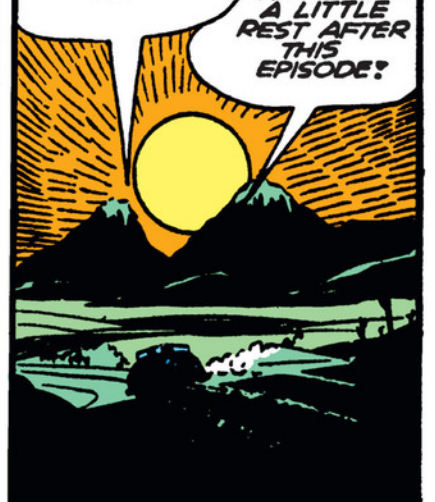
WITH THEIR JOB DONE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAVE BEHIND A GRATEFUL PEOPLE--

I CERTAINLY HOPE THEY BURIED SUPERSTITION IN THIS TOWN!



QUITE A LITTLE ADVENTURE, WASN'T IT?

AND HOW! AND I THINK WE DESERVE A LITTLE REST AFTER THIS EPISODE!



No. 3

FALL ISSUE



WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

96
PAGES



SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE & BLUE • ZATARA

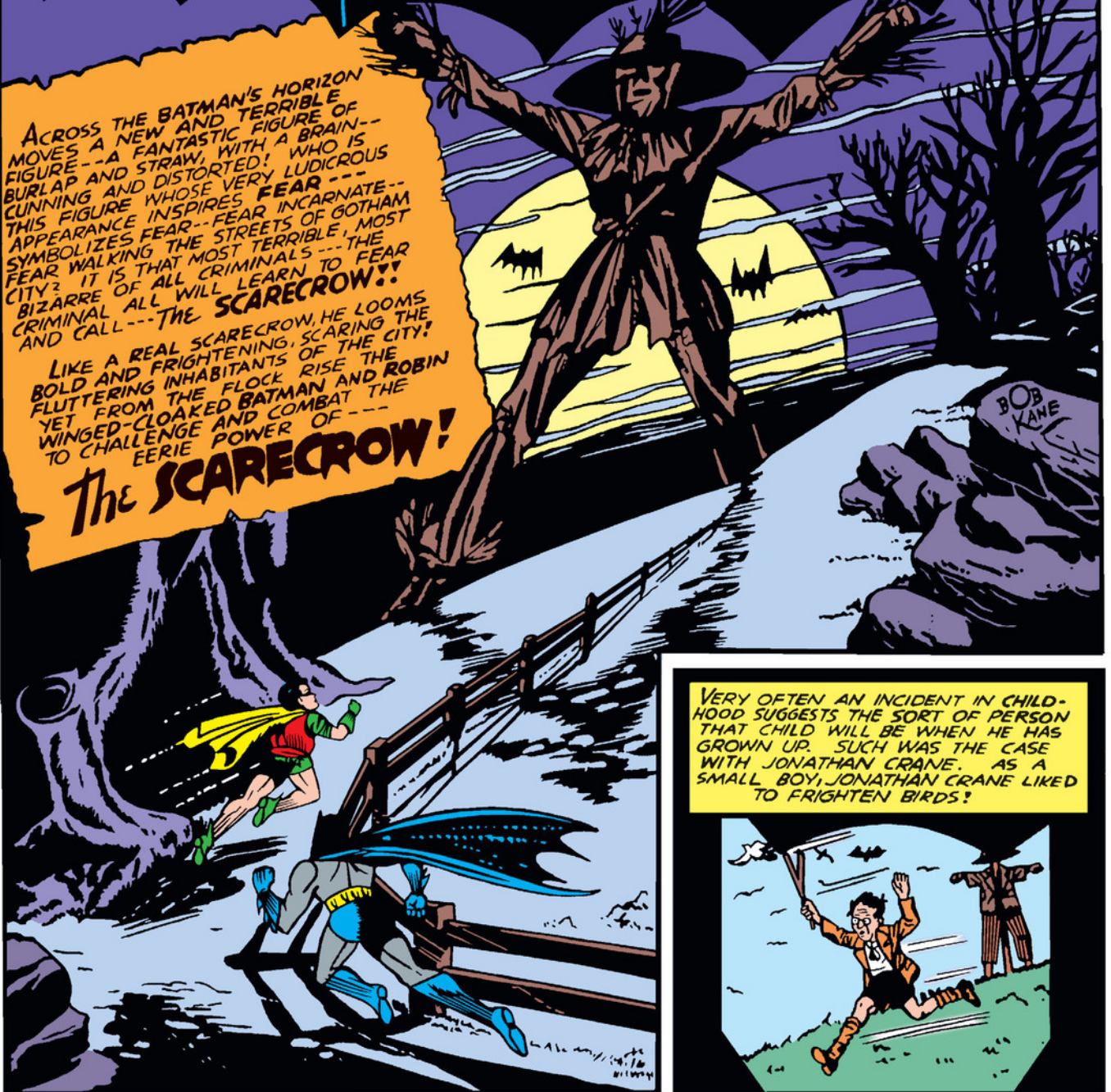
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

ACROSS THE BATMAN'S HORIZON
MOVES A NEW AND TERRIBLE
FIGURE--A FANTASTIC FIGURE OF
BURLAP AND STRAW, WHO IS
CUNNING AND DISTORTED! WHO IS
THIS FIGURE WHOSE VERY LUDICROUS
APPEARANCE INSPIRES FEAR--
FEAR INCARNATE--
SYMBOLIZES FEAR--THE STREETS OF GOTHAM
FEAR WALKING THE STREETS, MOST
BIZARRE OF ALL WILL LEARN TO FEAR
CRIMINAL ALL WILL LEARN TO FEAR
AND CALL--THE SCARECROW!!

LIKE A REAL SCARECROW, HE LOOMS
BOLD AND FRIGHTENING, SCARING THE
FLUTTERING INHABITANTS OF THE CITY!
YET FROM THE FLOCK RISE THE
WINGED-CLOAKED BATMAN AND ROBIN
TO CHALLENGE AND COMBAT THE
EERIE POWER OF--

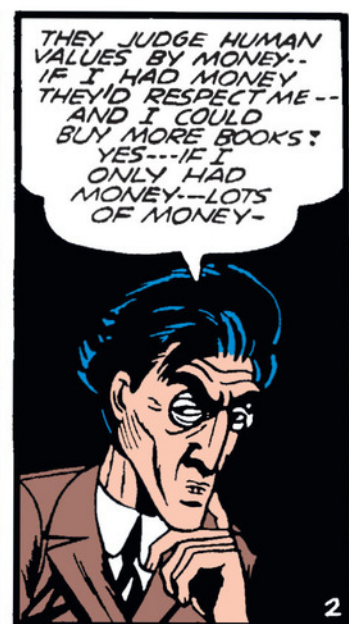
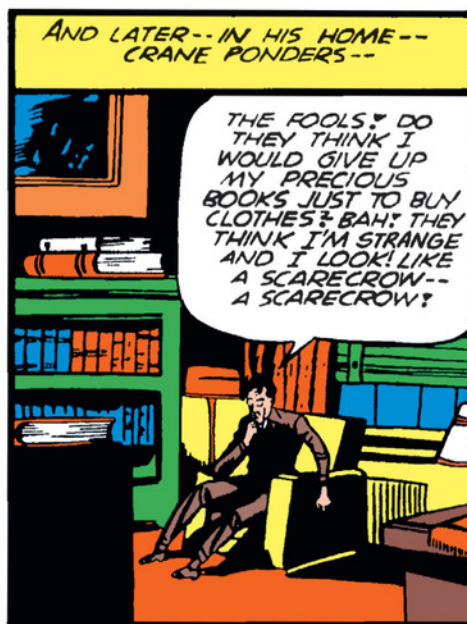
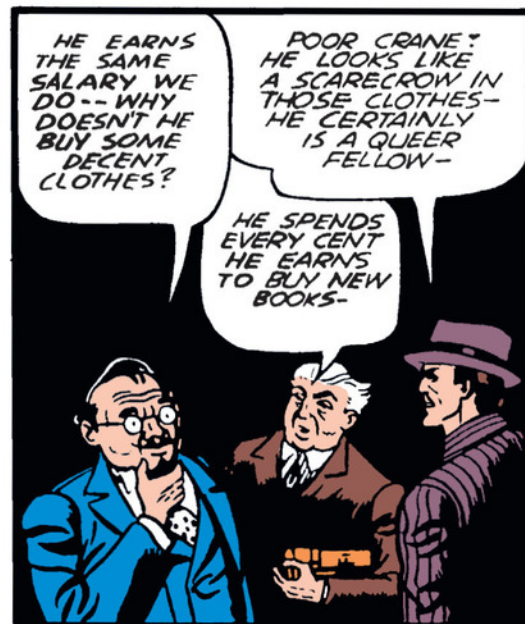
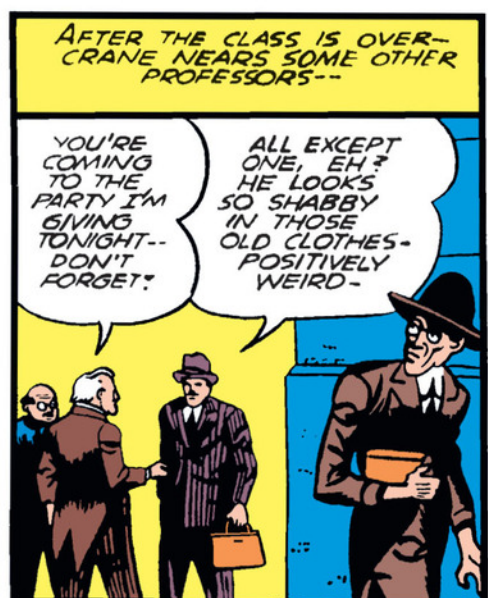
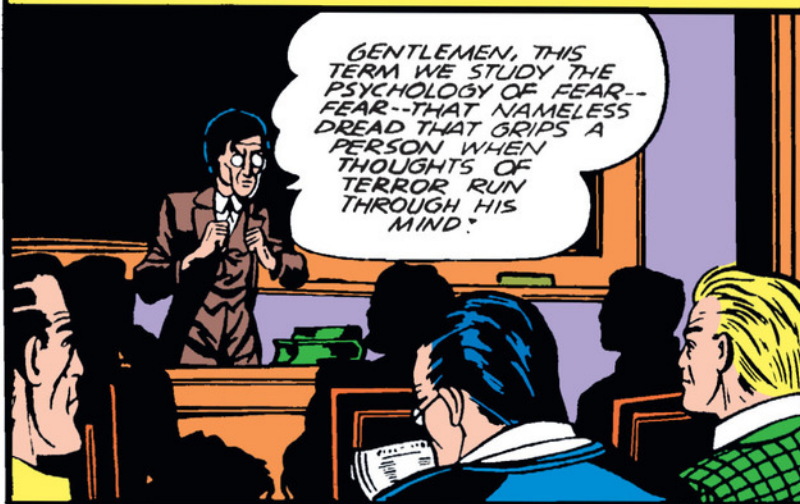
The SCARECROW!



VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT IN CHILD-
HOOD SUGGESTS THE SORT OF PERSON
THAT CHILD WILL BE WHEN HE HAS
GROWN UP. SUCH WAS THE CASE
WITH JONATHAN CRANE. AS A
SMALL BOY, JONATHAN CRANE LIKED
TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS!

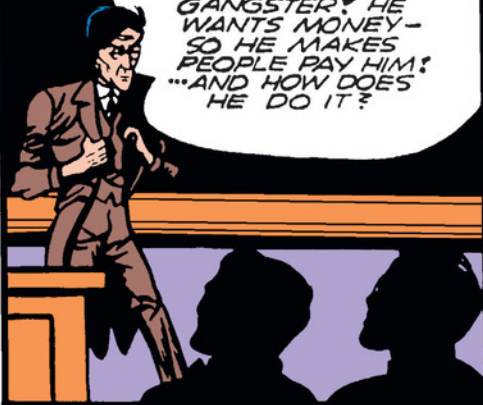


WHEN JONATHAN CRANE GREW UP HE BECAME A TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN A UNIVERSITY--AND THIS IS WHERE WE FIND HIM TODAY--



① THE NEXT DAY, AT CLASS--

TAKE THE
EXAMPLE OF THE
"PROTECTION RACKET"
WORKED BY THE
GANGSTER! HE
WANTS MONEY--
SO HE MAKES
PEOPLE PAY HIM!
...AND HOW DOES
HE DO IT?



② HE MAKES PEOPLE
AFRAID--AFRAID SO
THAT THEY PAY HIM!
YES---HE MAKES THEM
AFRAID--AFRAID--
AND HE GETS MONEY--
LOTS OF MONEY--
BECAUSE PEOPLE
ARE AFRAID OF HIM!



③ IN HIS HOME, CRANE'S
DISTORTED BRAIN BEGINS
THINKING ALONG FANTASTIC
LINES... ALONG CRIMINAL LINES--



④ SO I LOOK LIKE
A SCARECROW--
THAT WILL BE MY
SYMBOL--A SYMBOL
OF POVERTY AND
FEAR COMBINED!
THE PERFECT
SYMBOL--THE
SCARECROW!



⑦ I'M THE
SCARECROW!
I'VE COME TO
SELL YOU MY
SERVICES--

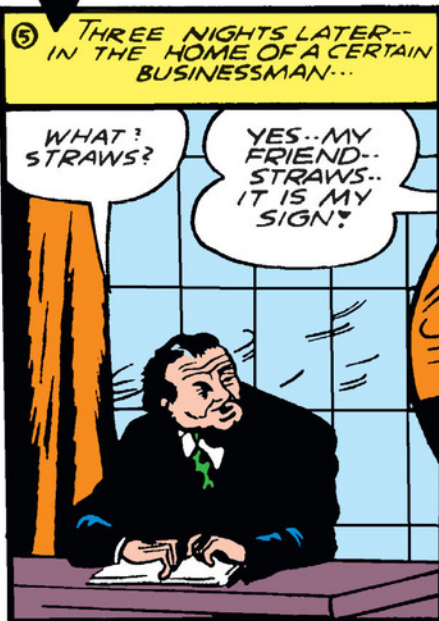


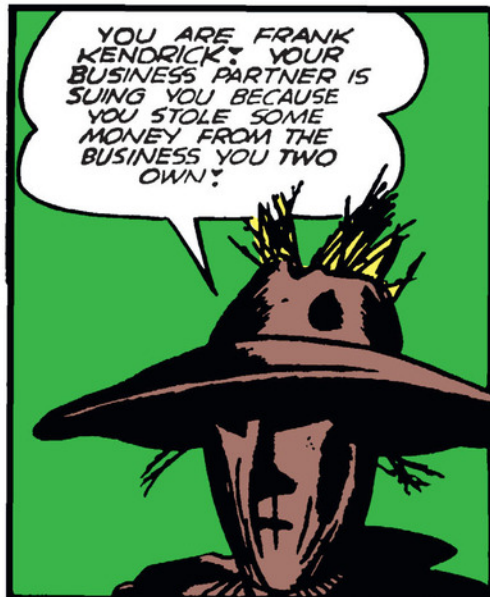
⑤ THREE NIGHTS LATER--
IN THE HOME OF A CERTAIN
BUSINESSMAN--

WHAT?
STRAWS?

YES--MY
FRIEND--
STRAWS--
IT IS MY
SIGN!

⑥ WHO--
WHAT
ARE YOU?



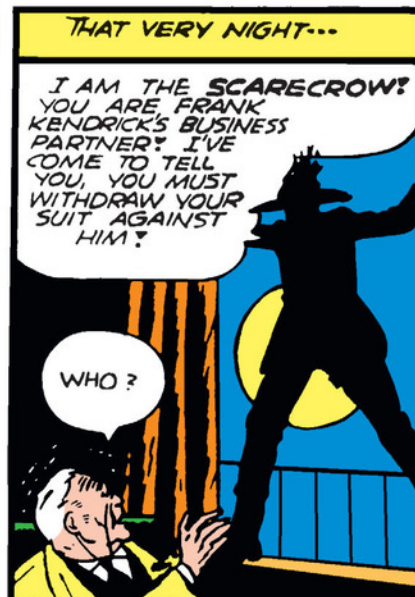


YOU ARE FRANK KENDRICK? YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER IS SUING YOU BECAUSE YOU STOLE SOME MONEY FROM THE BUSINESS YOU TWO OWN?



FOR A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY, I WILL SCARE YOUR PARTNER SO THAT HE WILL BE AFRAID TO PROSECUTE YOU--HE WILL DROP THE SUIT. DO YOU WANT TO BUY MY SERVICES?

I... I SUPPOSE SO? WHY NOT? IF YOU CAN STOP MY PARTNER?



THAT VERY NIGHT...

I AM THE SCARECROW! YOU ARE FRANK KENDRICK'S BUSINESS PARTNER? I'VE COME TO TELL YOU, YOU MUST WITHDRAW YOUR SUIT AGAINST HIM!

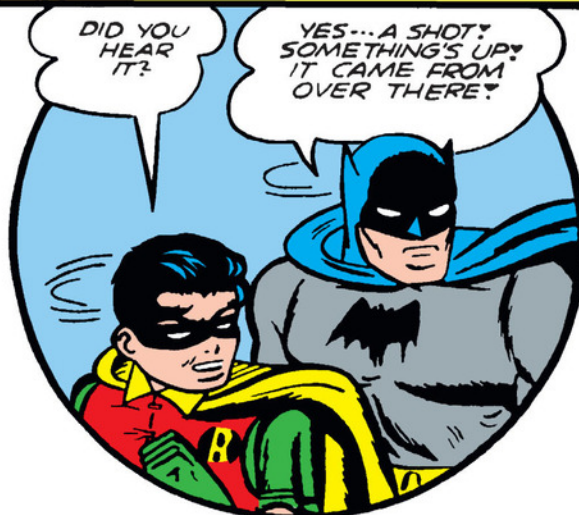
WHO?



THE NEXT TIME WE MEET IT WILL BE YOUR HEART UNLESS YOU WITHDRAW THE SUIT! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED BY THE SCARECROW!

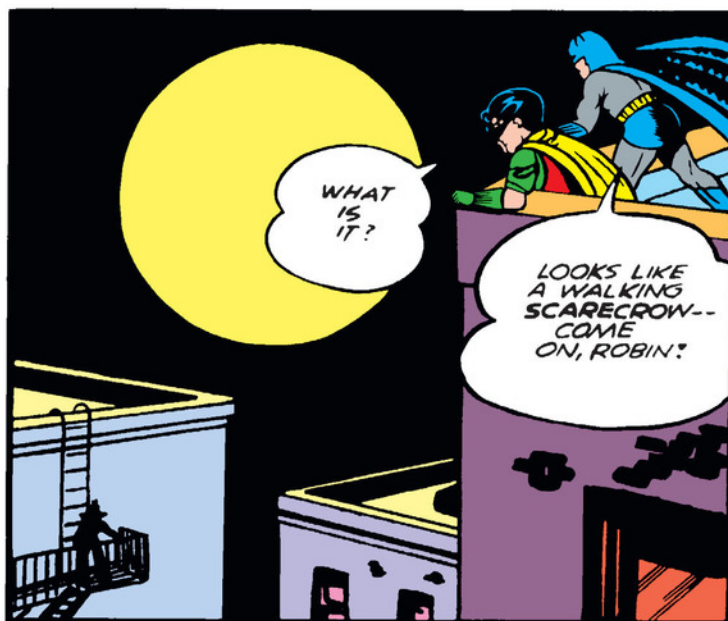
AHH? YOU SHOT ME?

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DART LIGHTLY ACROSS THE ROOF-TOPS--



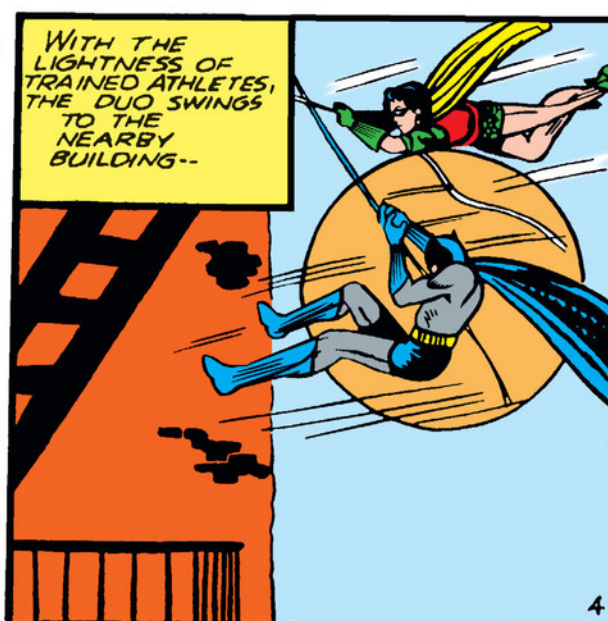
DID YOU HEAR IT?

YES... A SHOT? SOMETHING'S UP! IT CAME FROM OVER THERE!



WHAT IS IT?

LOOKS LIKE A WALKING SCARECROW-- COME ON, ROBIN!

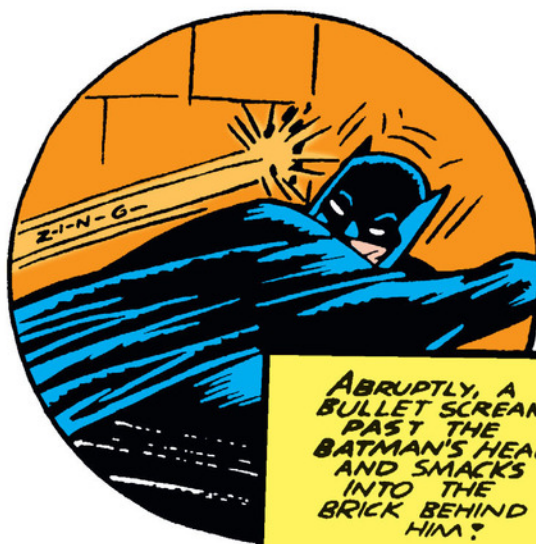


WITH THE LIGHTNESS OF TRAINED ATHLETES, THE DUO SWINGS TO THE NEARBY BUILDING--

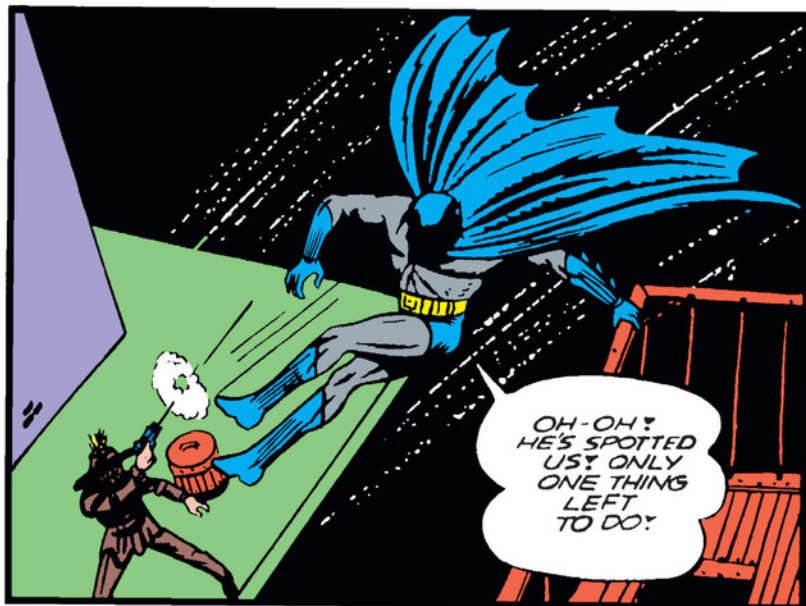
DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE THEY
RACE IN PURSUIT OF THE
SCARECROW---



COME
ON, ROBIN!
THAT FELLOW'S
FAST ON HIS
FEET!



ABRUPTLY, A
BULLET SCREAMS
PAST THE
BATMAN'S HEAD
AND SMACKS
INTO THE
BRICK BEHIND
HIM?



OH-OH!
HE'S SPOTTED
US! ONLY
ONE THING
LEFT
TO DO!



HI, PAL!



PLEASANT
DREAMS!




SLUG THE
BATMAN.
WILL YOU?



TAKE
THAT!

AND WITH QUEER GRASSHOPPER LEAPS THE SCARECROW DISAPPEARS INTO THE BLACK NIGHT?



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST A BIT WOOLLY? THAT WAS QUITE A CLOUT! OH-OH SIRENS! SOMEBODY HEARD THAT SHOT AND PHONED THE POLICE!

THE IS

2 Cents New York

BUSINESSMAN SHOT BY SCARECROW

**WALKING
SCARECROW
WARNS
HEROLD**

PAUL HEROLD
ACCUSES HIM-
SELF OF BEING THE
SCARECROW WHO
SHOT THE BUSINESSMAN
WHO WAS KILLED
LAST NIGHT.

AND FRANK KENDRICK SAYS--

DO YOU DENY
HIRING THIS
SCARECROW
TO FRIGHTEN
HEROLD INTO
DROPPING HIS
LAW SUIT?

OF COURSE
I DO? CAN I
HELP IT IF
THIS SCARECROW
PERSON TAKES
AN INTEREST
IN MY
AFFAIRS?

YOU KNOW WE CAN'T ARREST YOU WITHOUT PROOF? C'MON, BOYS? I DON'T LIKE THE AROMA IN THIS PLACE--SMELLS LIKE A SKUNK IS LOOSE HERE-

AND THAT VERY NIGHT, AS PAUL HEROLD READS, GUNFIRE CRASHES THROUGH HIS ROOM—

THE SCARECROW WARNS ONLY ONCE!

AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE ---

HEROLD --
MURDERED --
AND LOOK
AT THIS
I FOUND?

STRAW? THE
SCARECROW
LEFT HIS
CALLING
CARD --



AND FRANK KENDRICK HAS A VISITOR...

YOU
KILLED
HIM! I JUST
HEARD IT
ON THE
RADIO?

WHAT DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE?
HE REFUSED TO
WITHDRAW HIS
LAWSUIT AGAINST
YOU? NOW
HE'LL NEVER
SUE YOU?

PROFESSOR JONATHAN CRANE IS CALLED INTO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE--

WE HAVE DECIDED TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR PROFESSORSHIP HERE! YOUR TEACHINGS ARE ENTIRELY TOO FANATICAL--SUCH AS YOUR SHOOTING A GUN OFF IN CLASS-- WE FEEL---

BAH? WHO CARES WHAT YOU FEEL? I HAVE MONEY NOW, I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE?

AND THAT NIGHT IN HIS ROOM, CRANE PONDERES---

THEY FIRED ME? WHO WANTED TO BE A DULL TEACHER ANYWAY? NOW I CAN HAVE MONEY--MORE MONEY---

DAILY GLOBE
2¢
SCARECROW
WHY THE SCARECROW STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN?

AND NOW THE ENSUING DAYS TELL OF A GREAT CRIME MASTER--OF THE BEGINNING OF DAYS OF TERROR? THE SCARECROW STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN?

BRUCE WAYNE MEETS AN OLD FRIEND--THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE

HELLO, MARTIN? HOW ARE YOU? WHAT'S NEW?

NOTHING MUCH? WE PEOPLE OF COLLEGE USUALLY LEAD A FAIRLY UNEXCITING LIFE--

--- THIS "SCARECROW" CRANE, AS WE CALL HIM, WAVED A LARGE ROLL OF BILLS UNDER MY NOSE?

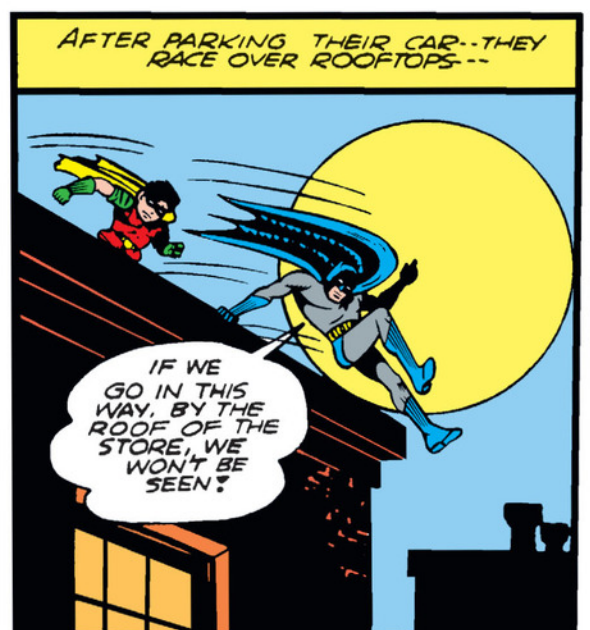
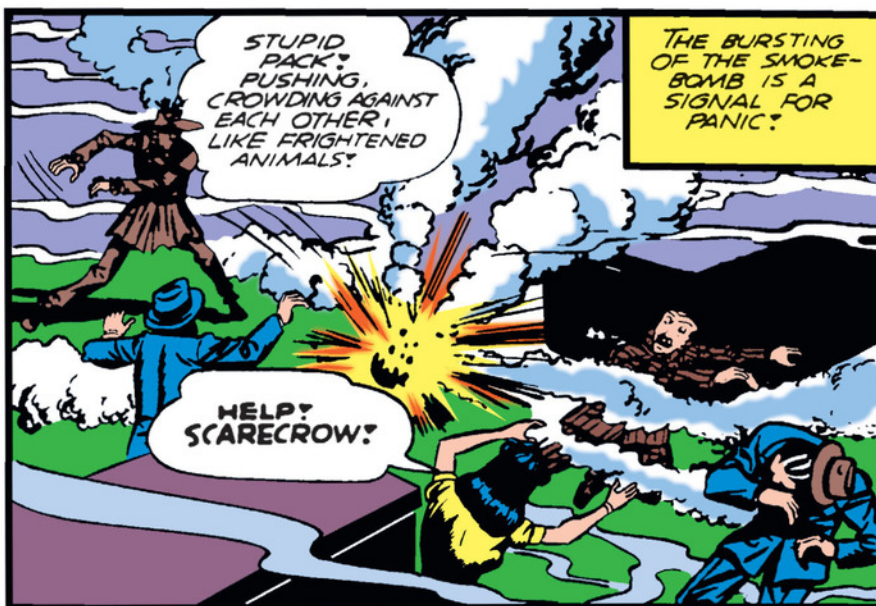
SCARECROW? I WONDER?

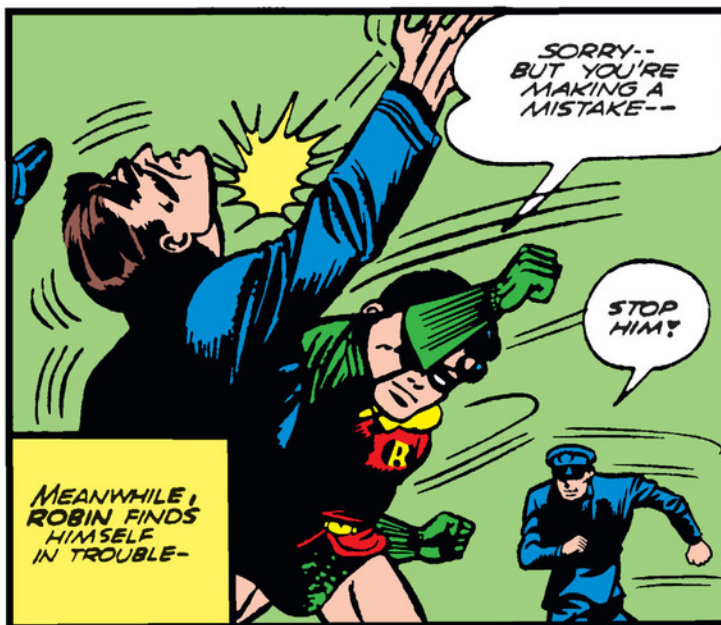
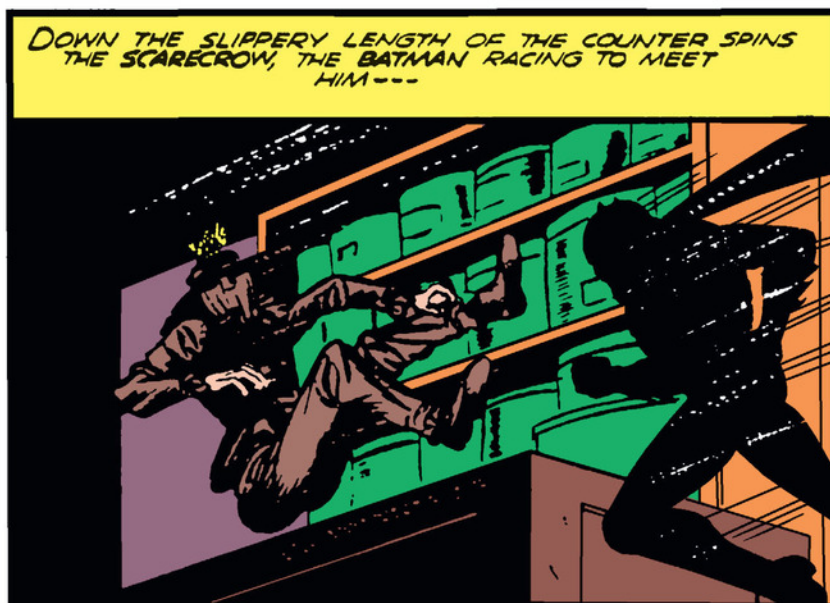
AND SPENDS ALL HIS MONEY ON ANCIENT BOOKS, YOU SAY?

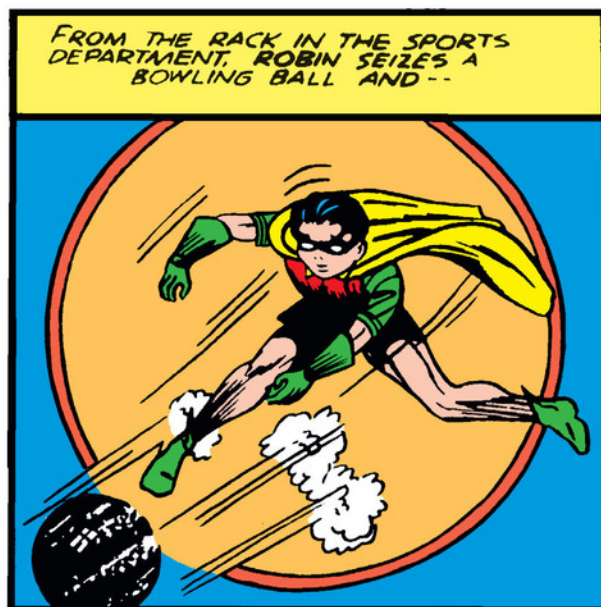
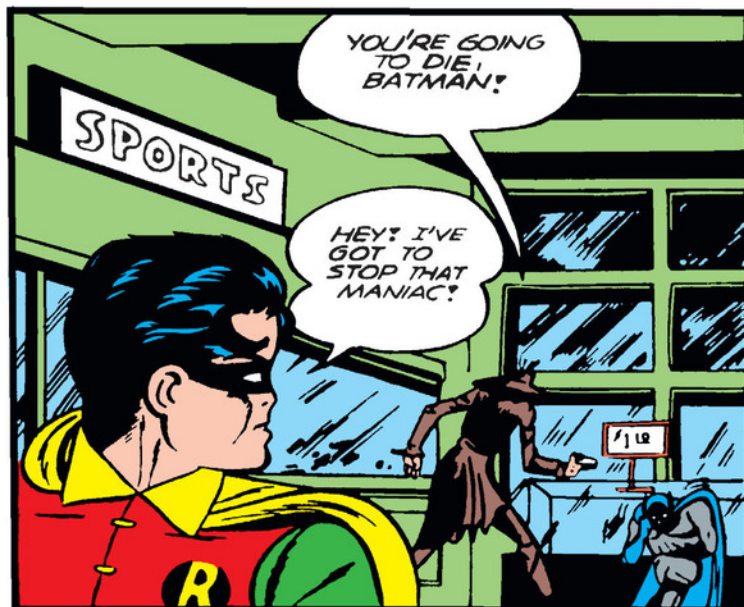
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SCARECROW PAYS ANOTHER CALL ON A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT?

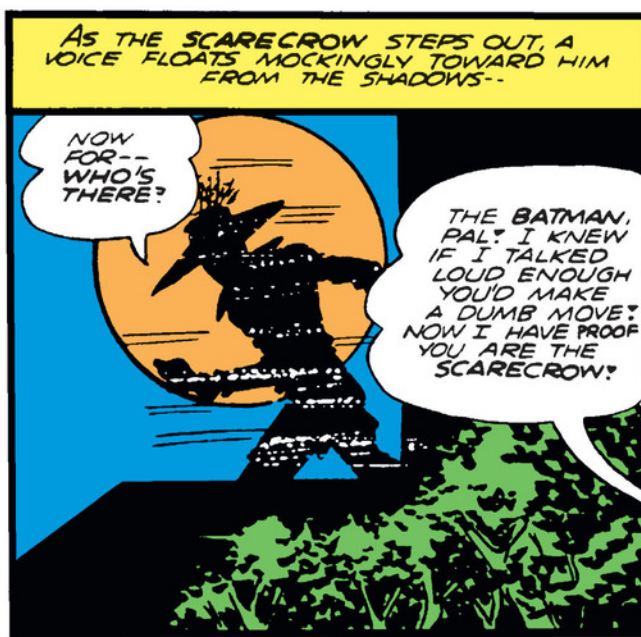
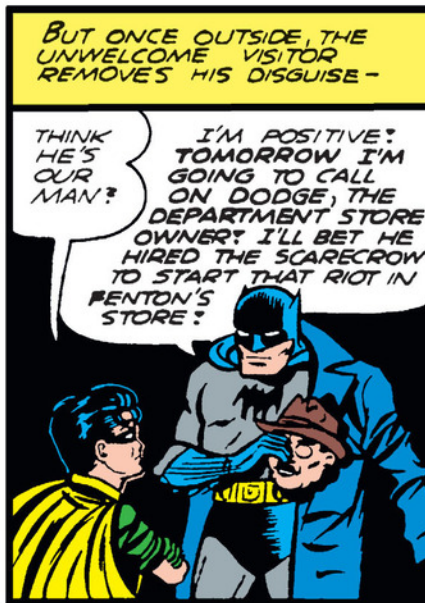
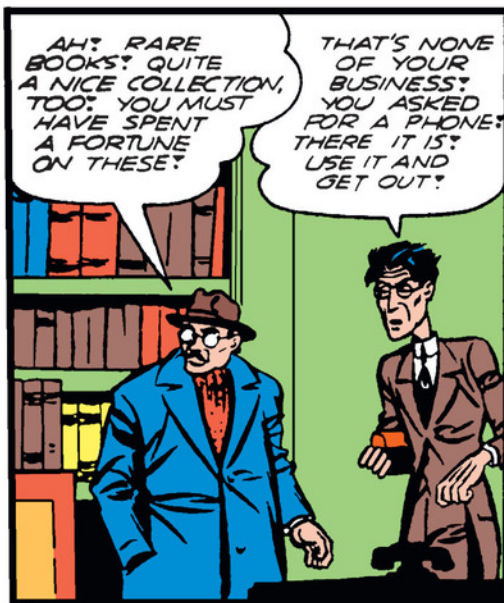
YOU? SCARECROW?

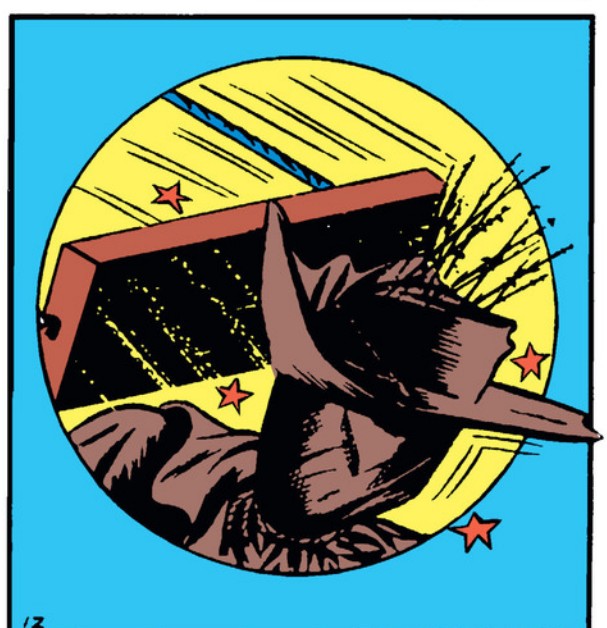
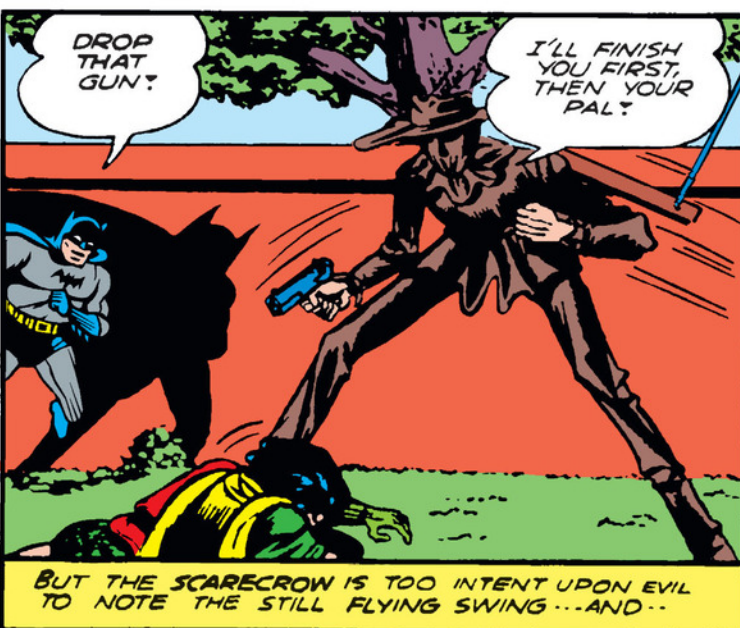
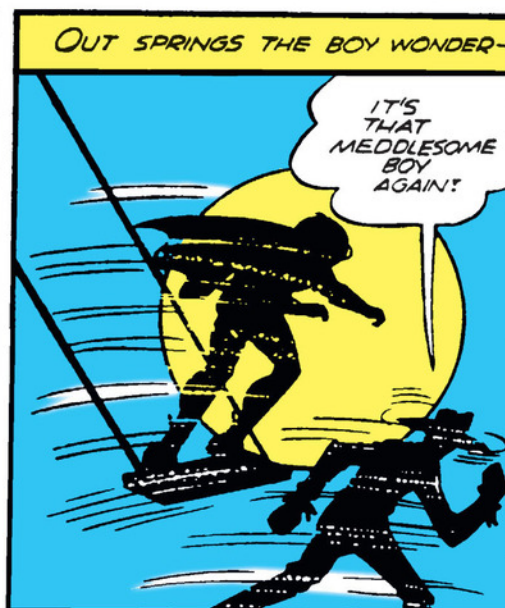
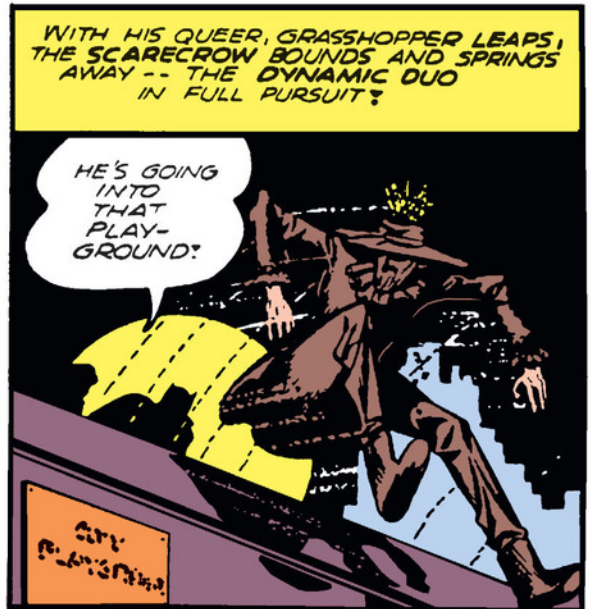
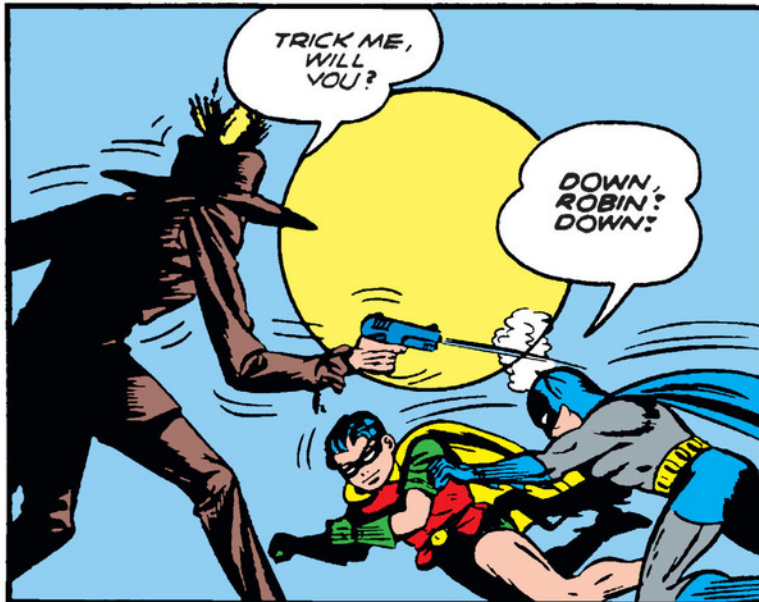
YES--AND YOU ARE RICHARD DODGE---OWNER OF A FAILING DEPARTMENT STORE-- BEING PUT OUT OF BUSINESS BY A RIVAL-- SOMETHING I CAN REMEDY, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED?



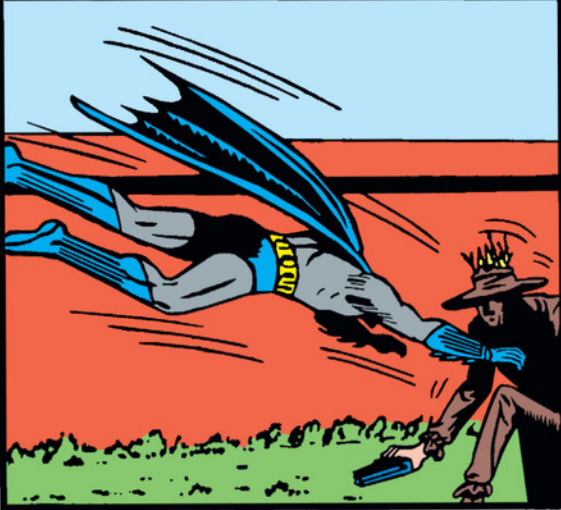








AS THE SCARECROW REACHES FOR HIS FALLEN GUN...THE BATMAN LEAPS!



A SHOT BLASTS PAST THE BATMAN'S FACE AS THEY LOCK IN A TERRIBLE STRUGGLE!

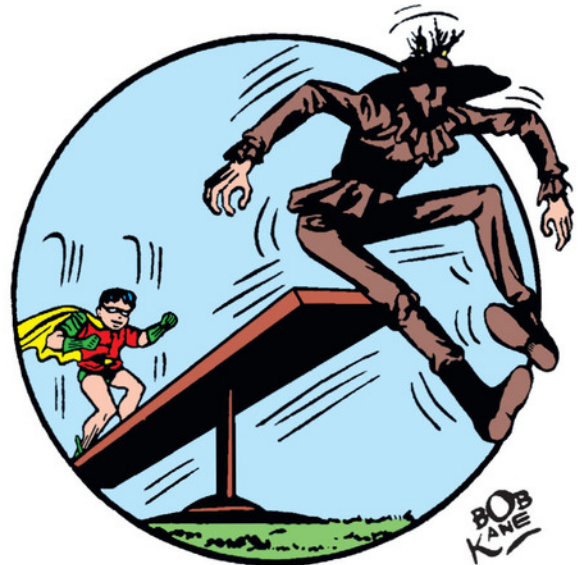
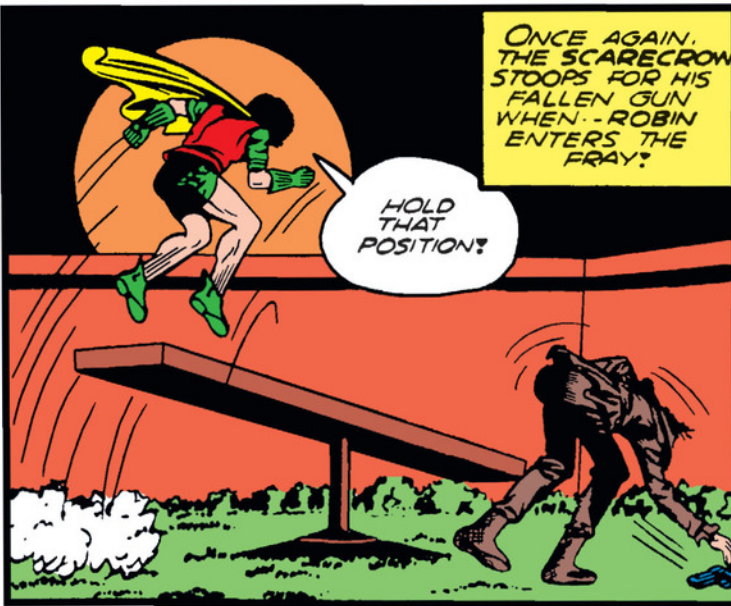


YOU'LL FIND I'M AS GOOD AT FIGHTING AS YOU ARE, BATMAN!



ONCE AGAIN, THE SCARECROW STOOPS FOR HIS FALLEN GUN WHEN--ROBIN ENTERS THE FRAY!

HOLD THAT POSITION!

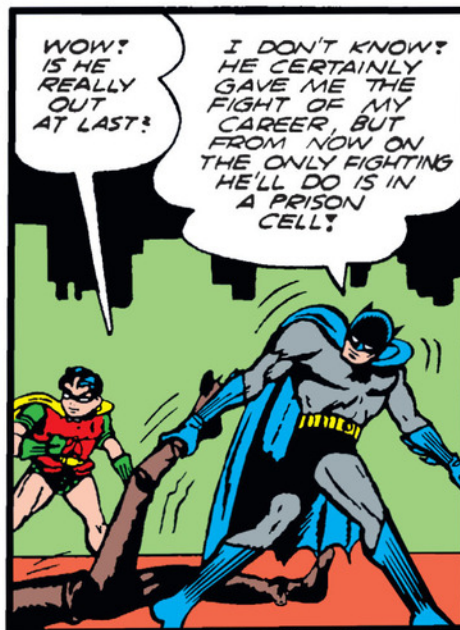


NICE TIMING, KID!



WOW! IS HE REALLY OUT AT LAST?

I DON'T KNOW! HE CERTAINLY GAVE ME THE FIGHT OF MY CAREER, BUT FROM NOW ON THE ONLY FIGHTING HE'LL DO IS IN A PRISON CELL!



AND SO THE INFAMOUS, SHORT-LIVED CAREER OF THE SCARECROW COMES TO AN END AT LAST!

THE STUPID FOOLS ACTUALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP ME HERE--



WILL THE SCARECROW RETURN? ONLY TIME... ONLY INSCRUTABLE TIME CAN TELL!

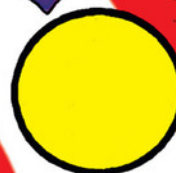
No.7



BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

OCT.
NOV.



BOB
KANE

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN



WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE PLAGUE OF MAD PRANKS THAT INFESTED GOTHAM CITY? WAS IT REALLY JUST DISTORTED HUMOR OR WAS THERE AN EVIL, CALCULATING THREAD OF EVIL WINDING THROUGH THIS PATTERN OF MAD MIRTH?

THE AMAZING ANSWER WAS TO BE FOUND BY THAT MANTLED NEMESIS OF CRIME...THE BATMAN! IT WAS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER WHO SMASHED THEIR WAY THROUGH THIS MAZE OF MIRTH TO FIND THAT BEHIND IT ALL WAS THE LEAN MENACING FIGURE OF

the **JOKER!**

THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON--

SAY, BRUCE-- DO YOU REALLY THINK THE JOKER DIED WHEN HE FELL FROM THAT LIGHTHOUSE INTO THE WATER?

THAT QUESTION HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME, TOO. I WISH I KNEW THE ANSWER! BUT ONE THING YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF--IF THE JOKER'S ALIVE, THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE DEVILRY AFOOT!



A QUEER AD APPEARS
IN THE MORNING
PAPER--

WANTED
PRACTICAL JOKERS--
ONLY THOSE WITH
EXPERIENCE NEED
APPLY. I. REKOJ
13 GLOOM ST.

MR REKOJ'S AD BRINGS MANY APPLICANTS ----

SO YOU ARE ALL
PRACTICAL JOKERS,
EH? ...WHAT
DO YOU
DO?

I GIVE PEOPLE
THE HOT-FOOT-
LIKE
THIS!

AND I CALL UP
PEOPLE DURING THE
NIGHT AND TELL
THEM THEIR HOUSE
IS ON FIRE!



I PULL
THE CHAIR
OUT FROM
UNDER PEOPLE
WHEN THEY'RE
ABOUT TO SIT
DOWN? SEE?

AND I PULL
HATS DOWN
OVER OTHER
PEOPLE'S EYES
LIKE THIS!

SPLENDID-
SPLENDID!
HA-HA!



REKOJ PROCEEDS TO WEED
OUT THE APPLICANTS, KEEPING
ONLY THOSE WHOSE PRANKS
ARE REALLY HARMFUL.

NOW THAT
THE OTHERS
HAVE GONE...
LINE UP AND
PASS BY THIS
TABLE --PICK
UP AN OBJECT
THERE, THATS
IT-- PICK
IT UP?

BUT...
BUT IT'S
A GUN !!



AFTER THEY
HAVE PICKED
UP THE OBJECTS
AND LAID THEM
DOWN ON THE TABLE
AGAIN--

EACH ONE OF
THESE OBJECTS
HAS BEEN PART OF
A MAJOR CRIME!
YOUR FINGERPRINTS
ARE ON THEM!
I COULD HAND YOU
OVER TO POLICE...
THEY COULD ACCUSE
YOU OF BEING
INVOLVED
IN THOSE
CRIMES.



SUDDENLY, THE MAN CALLED REKOJ
PAWS AT HIS FACE WITH HIS HANDS
AND REMOVES CLEVER MAKEUP,
IN PLACE OF REKOJ IS--

THE
JOKER?

NOW IF YOU WORK FOR
ME, YOU WILL MAKE MONEY--
REFUSE AND IT MEANS
JAIL, WHICH IS
IT? MONEY
OR JAIL? PERHAPS
DEATH?



THERE'S
NOT
MUCH
CHOICE?

GOOD? NOW I'M
GOING TO LET
YOU DO WHAT I
KNOW YOU LIKE
MOST TO DO--PLAY
JOKES ON PEOPLE?
AND WHAT JOKES THEY
ARE GOING TO BE?
HA-HA!



A FEW DAYS LATER,
THERE ARE FALSE
ALARM FIRES--

THERE'S
NO FIRE
HERE?

I'D LIKE
TO GET
MY HANDS
ON THE
GUY THAT
TURNED
THAT CALL
IN?



A MAN TAKES A SHOWER ONLY TO FIND THE WATER TAPS ARE NOW SWITCHED. WHAT SHOULD BE COLD WATER IS REALLY SCALDING HOT.

OW-OOO!

A MAN CAUSES A MINOR RIOT IN A BANK BY THROWING AWAY WHAT IS APPARENTLY MONEY.

HA-HA MONEY! MONEY! HA HA HA!

GET OUT OF MY WAY! MONEY! MONEY!

BUT A BANK TELLER EXAMINES THE GREEN PAPER AND YELLS OUT--

STOP! THIS MONEY IS COUNTERFEIT!

PHONEY MONEY! A DIRTY TRICK!

AND, OF COURSE, ALL THIS PLEASES THE JOKER IMMENSELY!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEM SCRAMBLE FOR THE MONEY HA-HA!

HA-HA! I'M GLAD YOU ARE ENJOYING YOURSELVES. NOW WE WILL PLAY EVEN FINER JOKE'S ON THE PUBLIC!

THE SHREWD JOKER REALIZES THESE EARLY PRANKS ACT LIKE A DRUG ON THESE SO-CALLED "HUMORISTS" AND THAT THEY ARE NOW READY FOR MORE VICIOUS TRICKS.

AUTO SIGNS ARE CHANGED ON ROADS, CAUSING TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS--

JOHN? WE ARE ON A ONE-WAY STREET?

BUT THERE'S NO SIGN HERE AGH-H-H-H!

POISONS ARE PUT IN BOTTLES SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN BENEFICIAL MEDICINES!

DOCTOR-- HE'S DEAD! WHAT KILLED HIM?

I DON'T KNOW! ALL I DID WAS GIVE HIM SOME TONIC!

ONE "HUMORIST" PULLS A SWITCH THAT SHUNTS A RAILROAD TRAIN ONTO THE WRONG TRACK! RESULT --- INSANE LAUGHTER --- AND A TRAIN WRECK!

HA HA-HA!

THEN, ONE DAY A PLANE SWOOPS DOWN OVER THE CITY!

LOOK!

IT'S DROPPING LEAFLETS!

THE LEAFLET!

HA-HA! I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRACTICAL JOKES THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF, AND LY. I LAUGH AT YOU, AND I LAUGH AT THE BLUNDERING POLICE WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO STOP ME FROM STEALING A VALUABLE GEM. I LAUGH AT THE BATMAN, WHO WILL ALSO TRY TO STOP ME!

THE JOKER

PUBLIC FEELING NOW RUNS HIGH? NO-BODY LIKES TO BE LAUGHED AT-- ESPECIALLY BY A CRIMINAL?

TAKE IT EASY, GORDON! YOU'RE LIKELY TO BURST A BLOOD VESSEL!

HOW CAN I TAKE IT EASY WHILE THE JOKER LAUGHS AT THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE?

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON?

MY NAME IS HENRY VERNE? READ THIS NOTE I RECEIVED THIS MORNING?

"TOMORROW NIGHT I WILL ENTER YOUR HOME AND STEAL THE GREAT DIAMOND YOU POSSESS."

THE JOKER

WHAT CAN I DO? THE JOKER WILL SURELY STEAL MY DIAMOND?

NO, HE WON'T! YOU STAY AT HOME! WHEN THE JOKER ENTERS YOUR HOUSE, HE'S GOING TO WALK INTO A TRAP!

YOU HOPE?

AND AT THAT MOMENT--

YOU HAVE DONE WELL! THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE ARE SO AROUSED AGAINST ME THAT OUR PLANS WILL CATCH THEM OFF-GUARD--

THE NEXT NIGHT--- A STRANGE TENSION GRIPS THE POLICEMEN POSTED ABOUT THE VERNE HOME--

I CAN HEAR VERNE PACING UP AND DOWN INSIDE-- BOY, IS HE NERVOUS?

I DON'T BLAME HIM! THIS WAITING AROUND FOR THE JOKER IS GETTING ME, TOO!

AND AT THAT VERY INSTANT, TWO MANTLED FIGURES LOPE SWIFTLY THROUGH GREY CITY STREETS? THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--

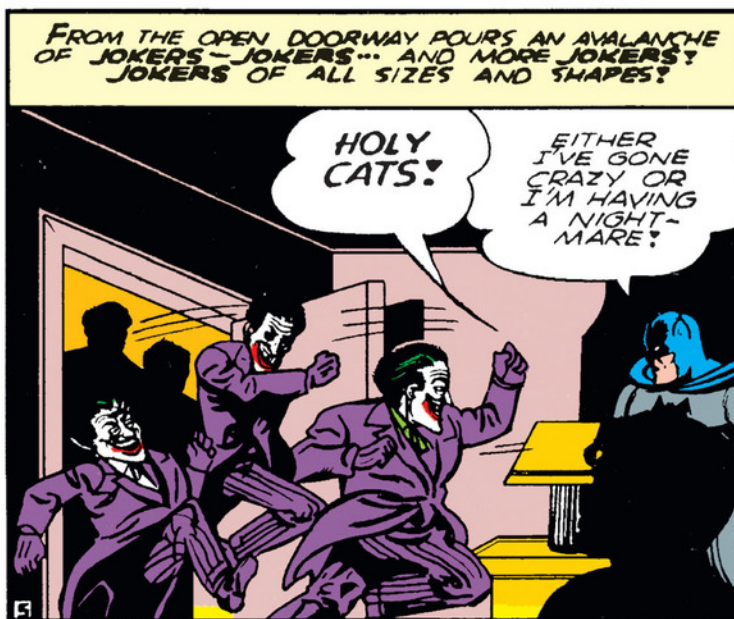
C'MON ROBIN, WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE JOKER?

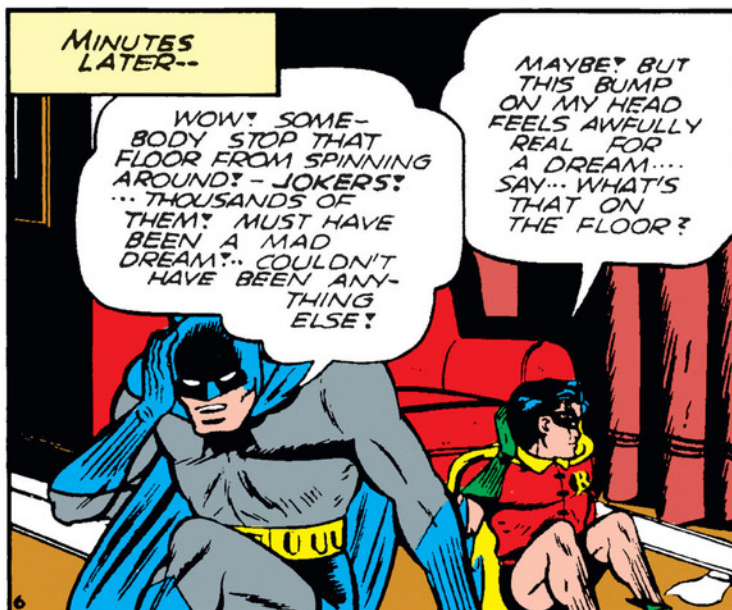
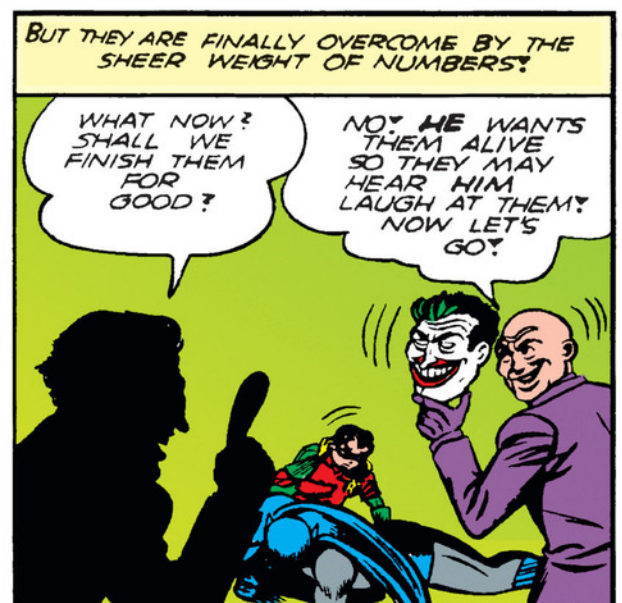
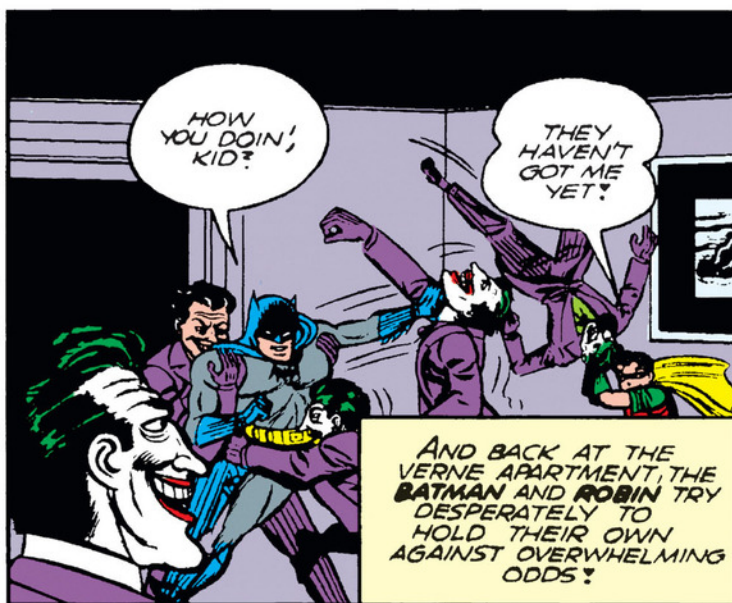
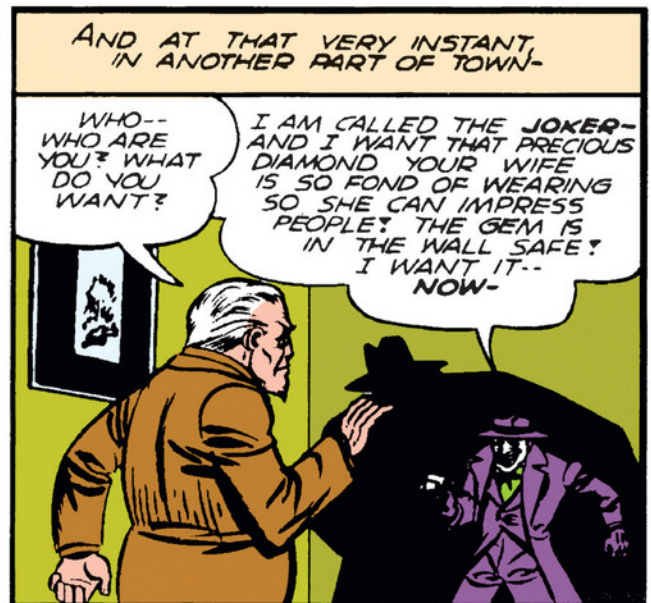
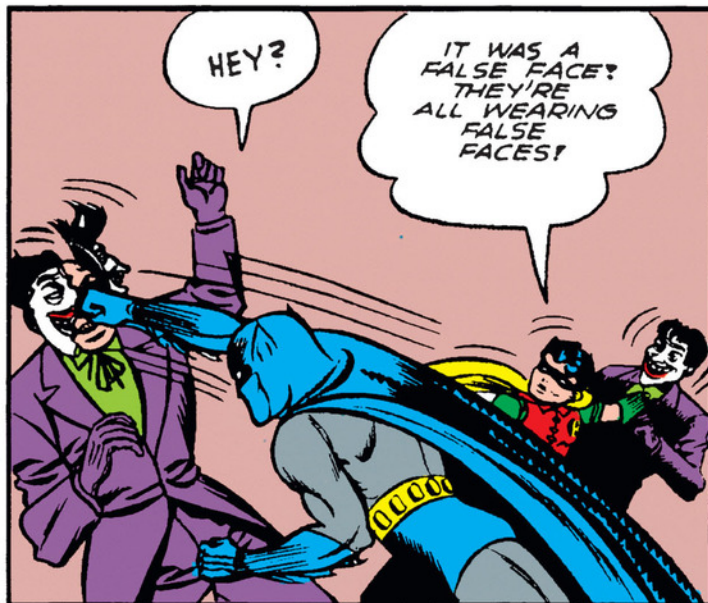
LET'S STEP IT UP!

WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE VERNE HOME--

LOOK! THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS!

AND WITH THAT JOKER GRIN ON THEIR FACES? C'MON, LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!

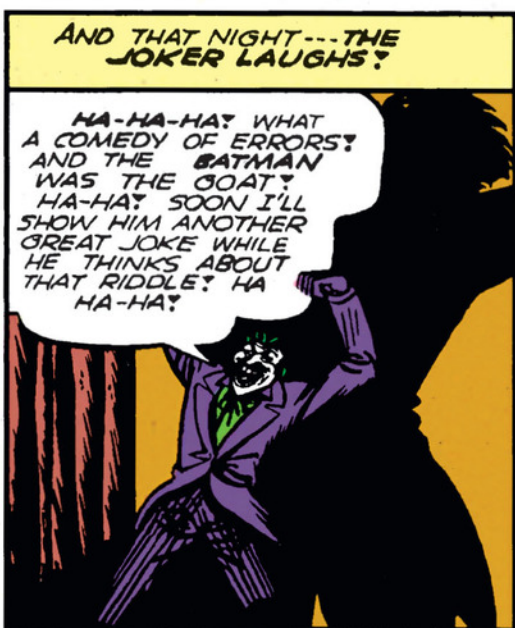


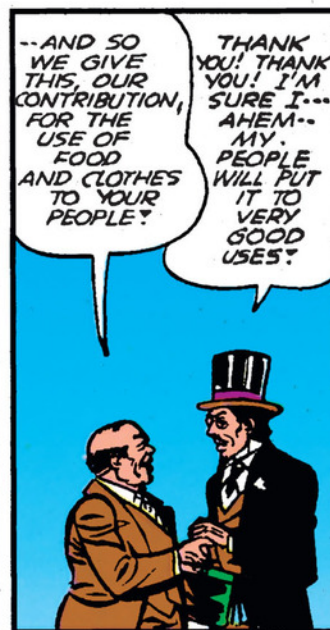


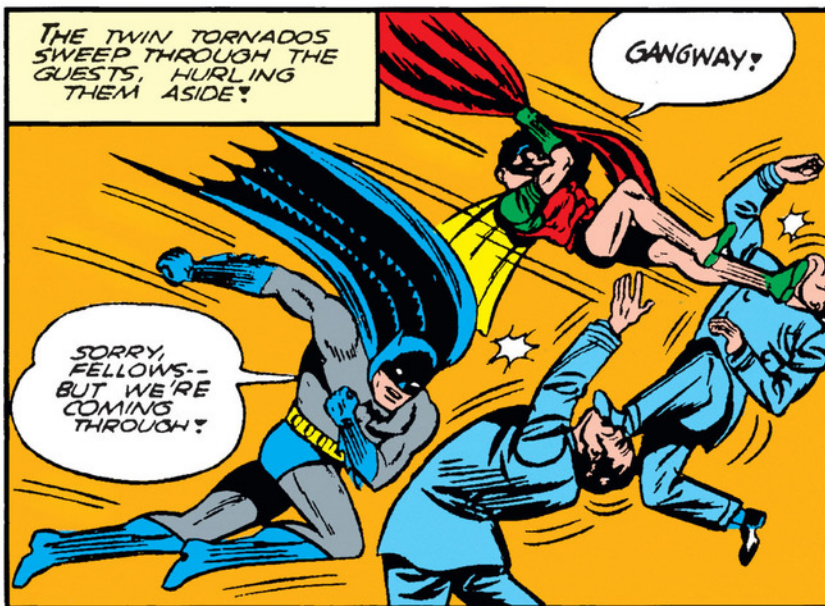
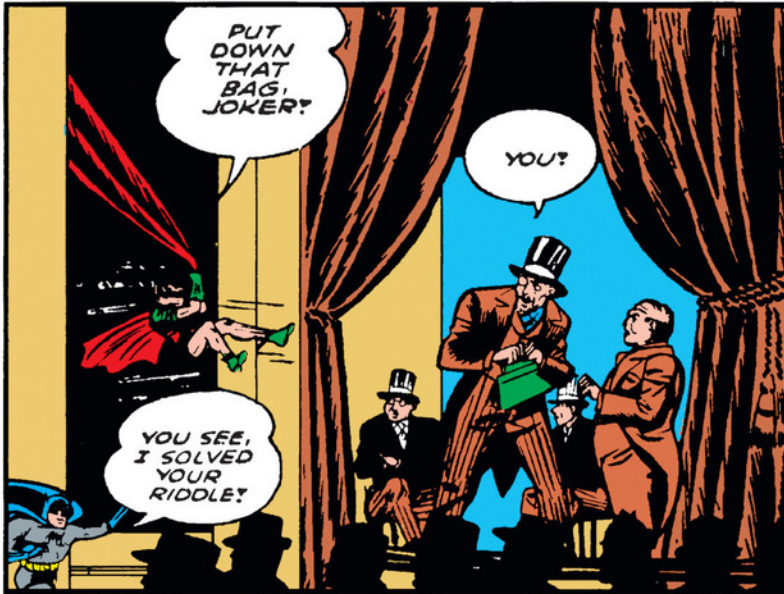
AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LOOK AT EACH OTHER BLANKLY, A BELL JANGLES RUDELY:

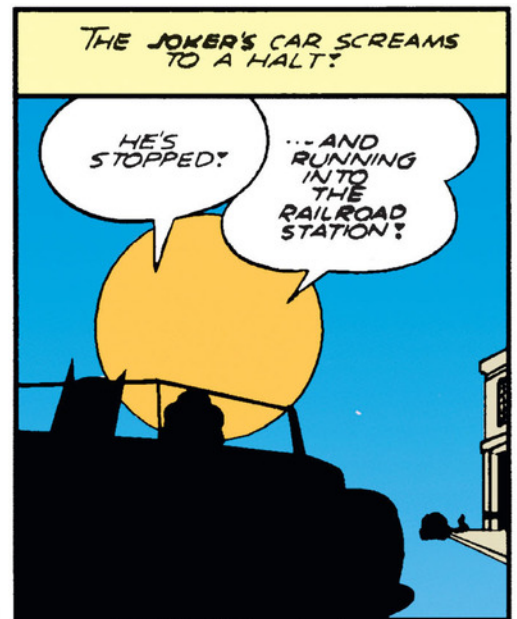
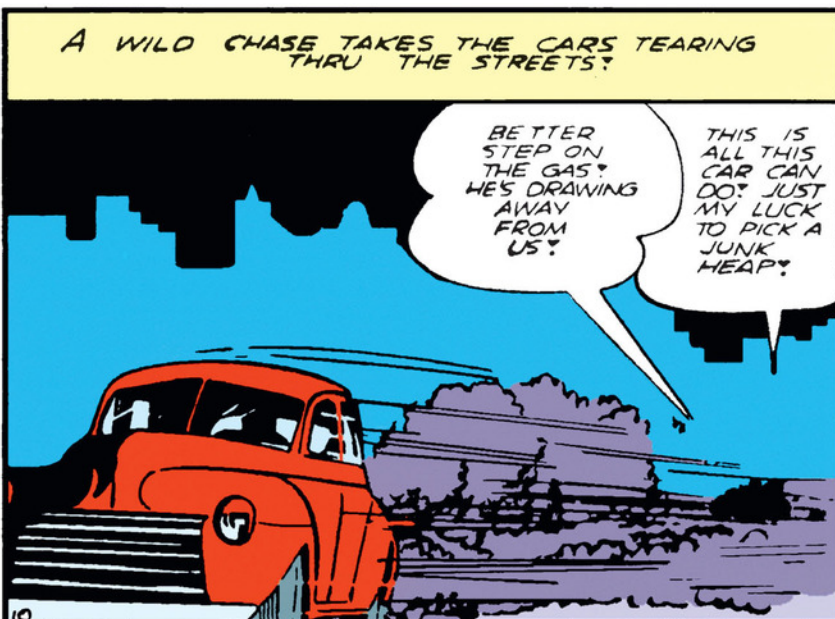
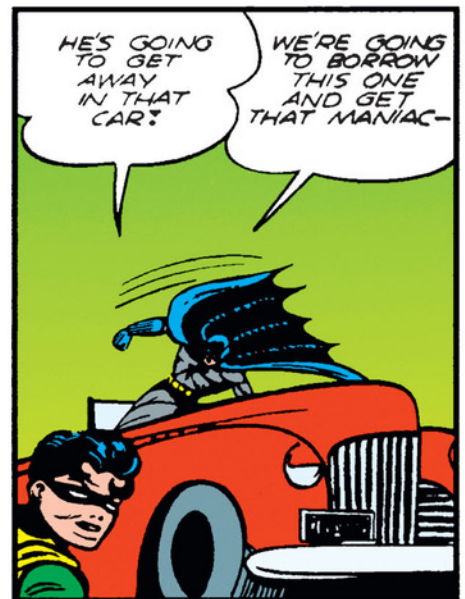
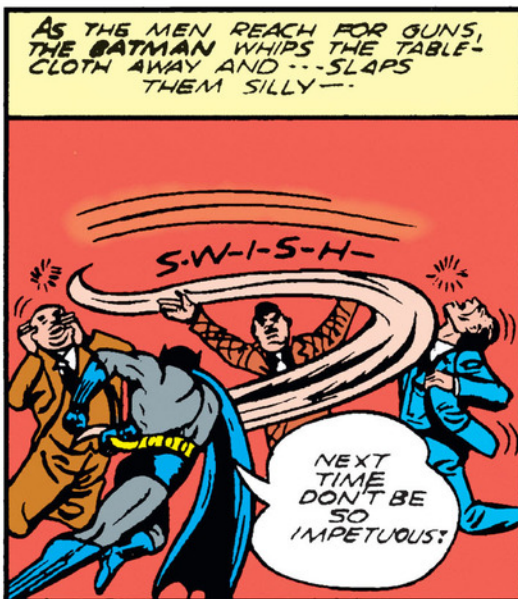
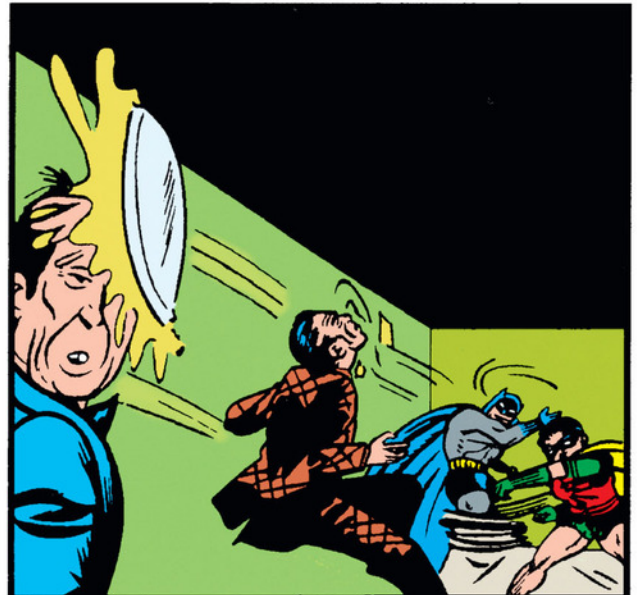
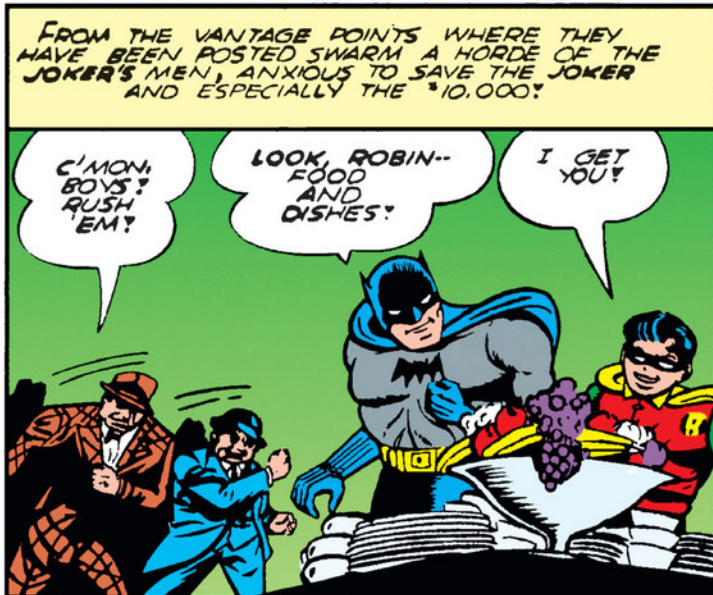


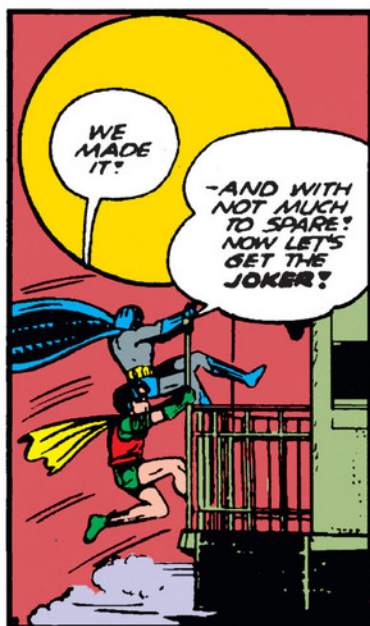
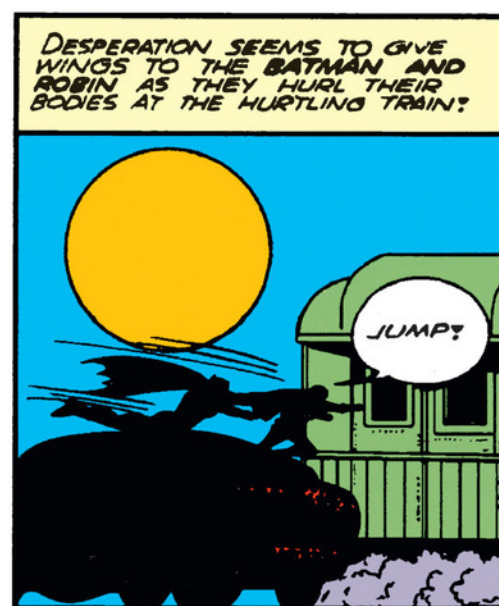
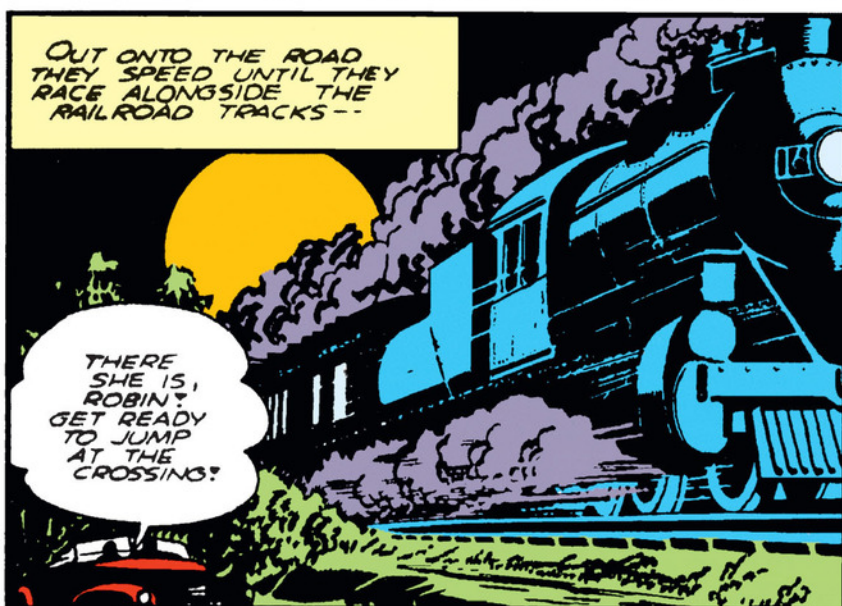
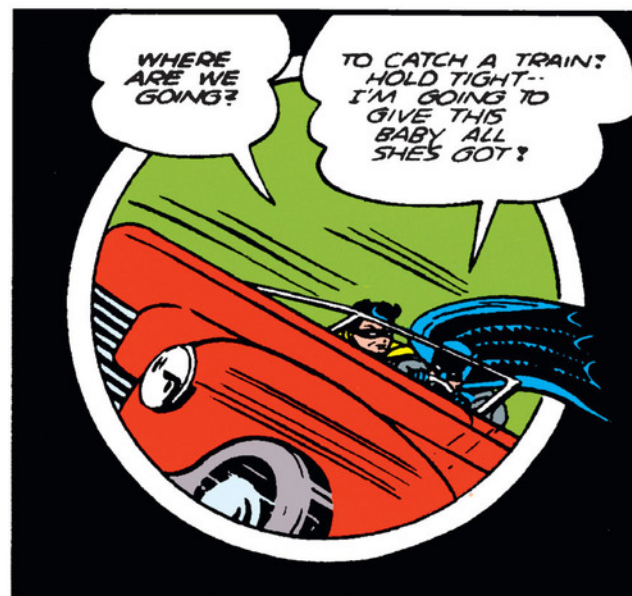
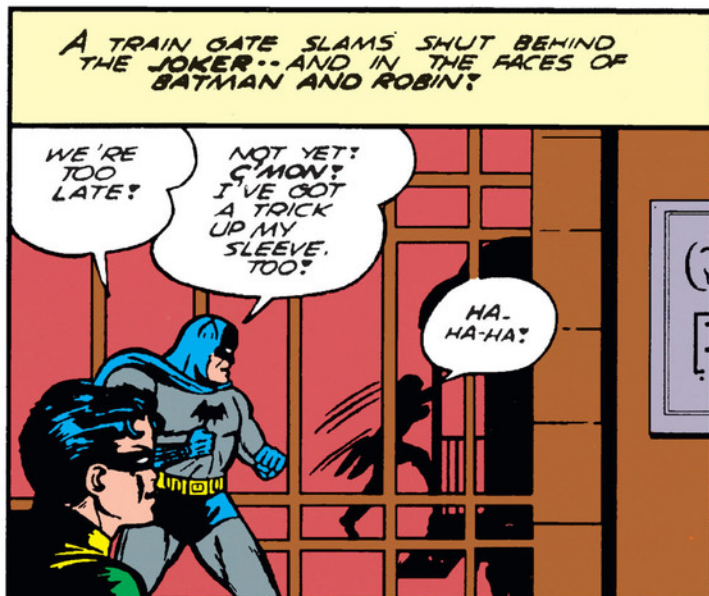
A TERRIBLY FAMILIAR, MOURNFUL VOICE FLOATS MOCKINGLY OVER THE WIRE--

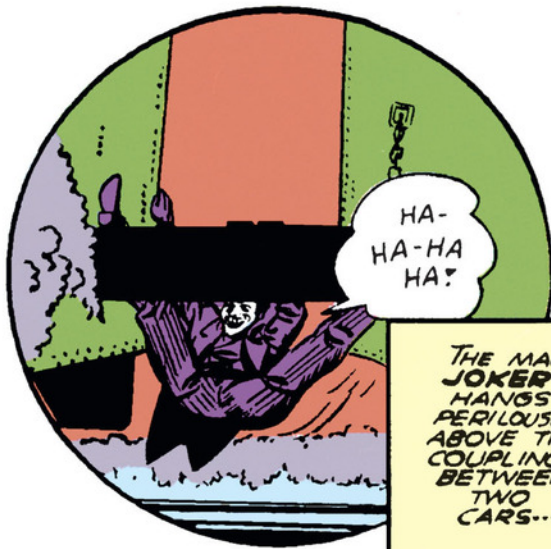
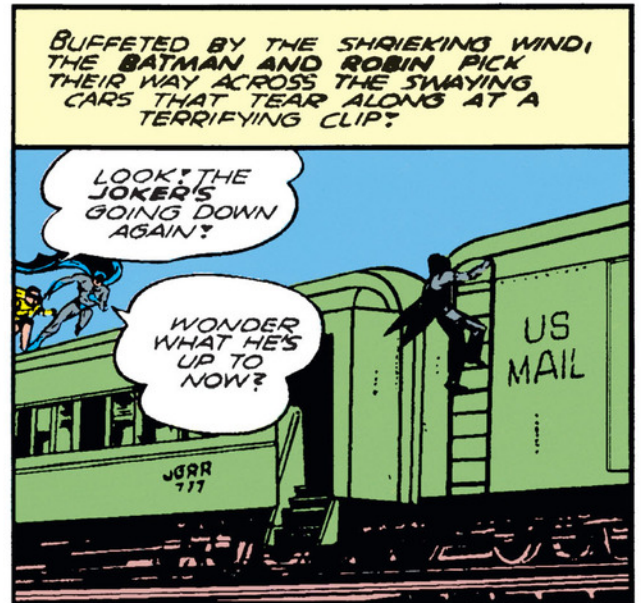




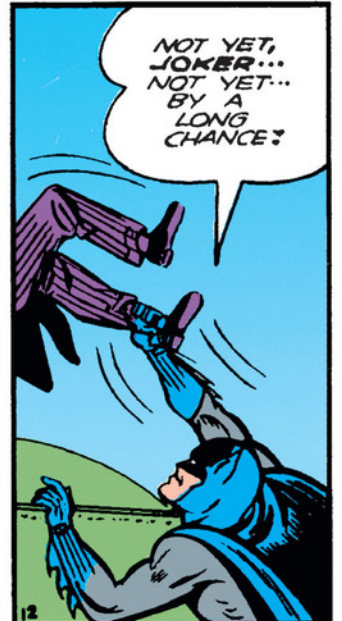
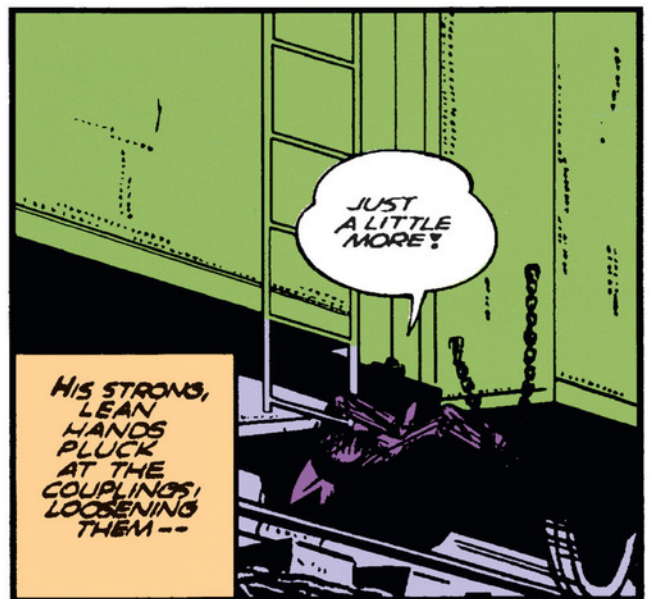


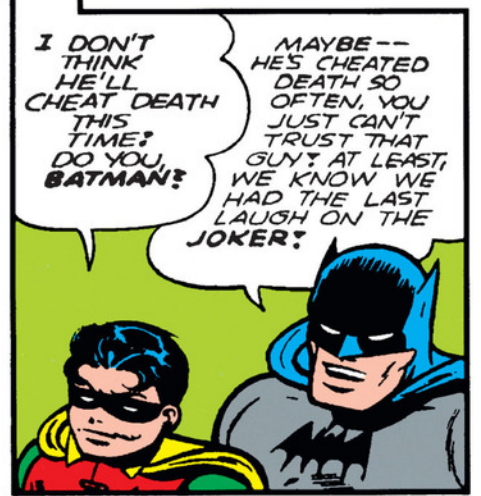
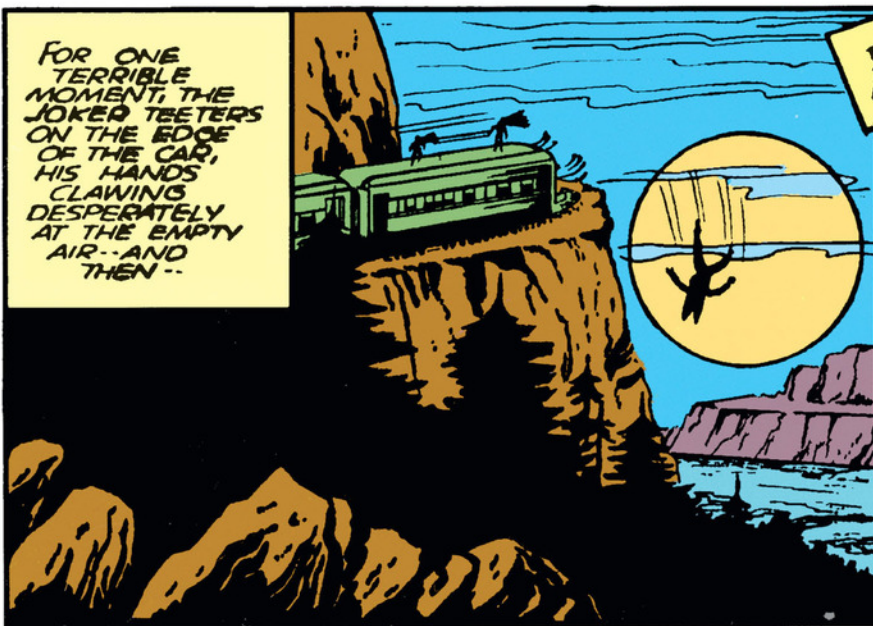
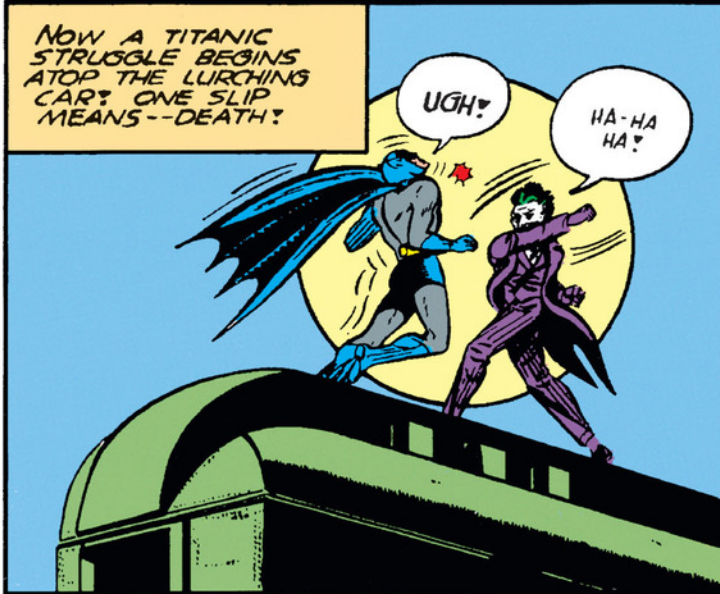






THE MAD
JOKER
HANGS
PERILOUSLY
ABOVE THE
COUPLINGS
BETWEEN
TWO
CARS...

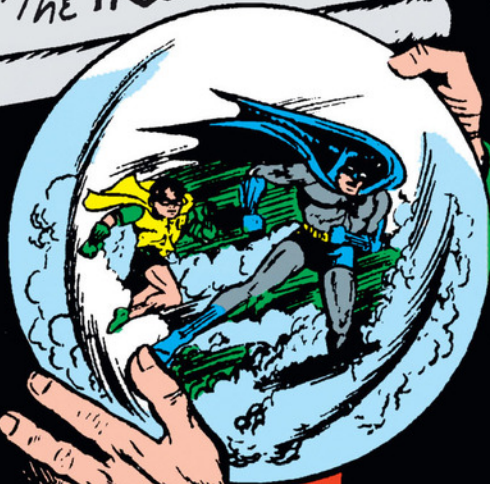




BATMAN

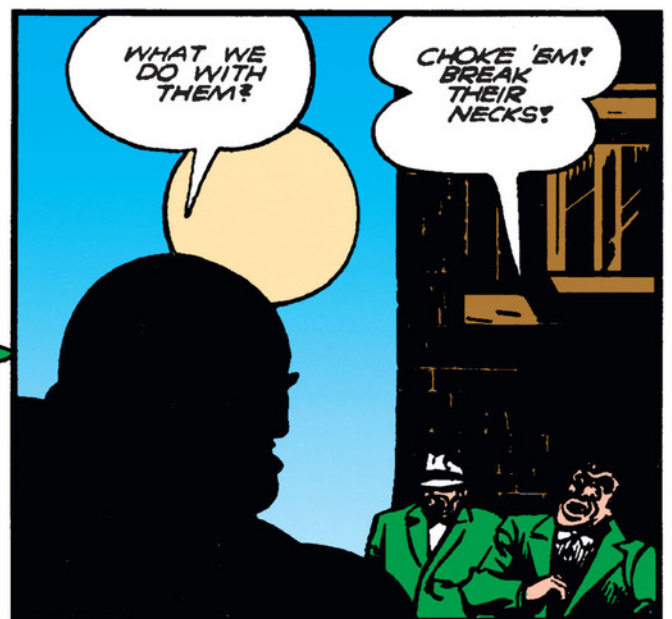
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

ONCE AGAIN THE MIGHTY
BATMAN AND HIS LAUGHING
YOUNG AIDE **ROBIN** GO FORTH
ON A CHANCE TRAIL AND CROSS THE
PATH OF A MASTER CRIMINAL.
OUT OF A STRANGE MEDLEY
OF ADVENTURES, THE **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN** FIND THE PROOF
OF AN UGLY AND VICIOUS
RACKET THAT INVOLVES INNOCENT
MEN AND WOMEN OF DANGER
USUAL DISREGARD THE
TO THEMSELVES THE
DYNAMIC DUO FERRETS OUT
THIS EVIL CRIME-MASTER AND
BRINGS AN END TO THE
STRANGE TALE OF
"THE TROUBLE TRAP"!

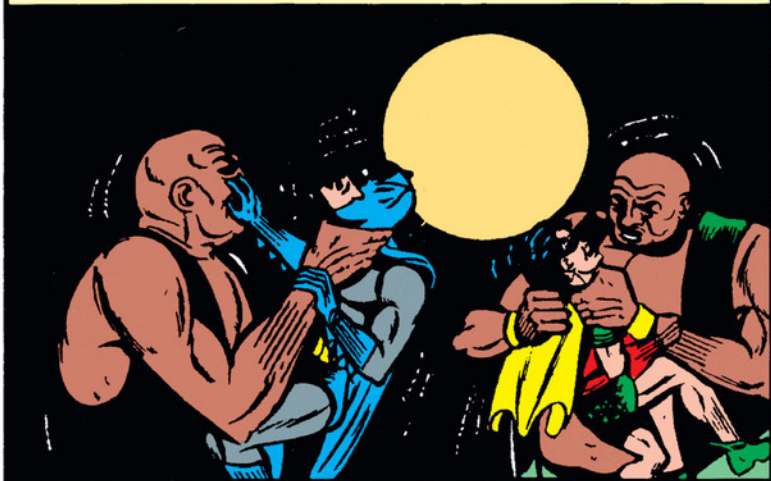


NIGHT--A MAN RUNS FOR
HIS LIFE! HIGH ABOVE, TWO
MANTLED FIGURES WATCH--AND
ACT!





SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE GIANT HANDS CLOSE TIGHTLY ABOUT THE THROATS OF THE STRUGGLING BATMAN AND ROBIN--



AS THE DESPERATE BATMAN GASPS FOR AIR, HIS FOOT LASHES OUT IN ONE LAST-DITCH EFFORT--



MOMENTARILY STUNTED, THE BRUTE RELEASES HIS DEATH GRIP. THE BATMAN'S HAND REACHES FOR ONE OF THE GLASS PELLETS IN HIS UTILITY BELT--



A FLING OF THE BATMAN'S HAND--AND BLACK SMOKE BILLOWS FORTH--

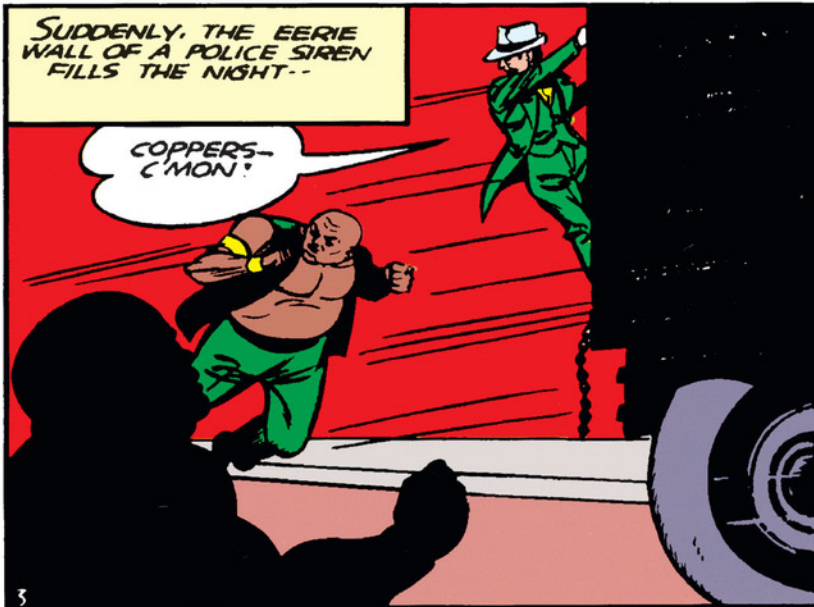


OKAY, BIG BOY-- DROP HIM?



SUDDENLY, THE EERIE WALL OF A POLICE SIREN FILLS THE NIGHT--

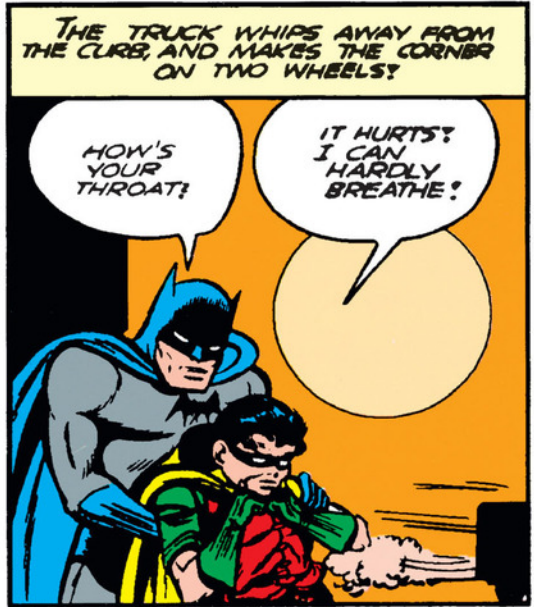
COPPERS-- C'MON!



THE TRUCK WHIPS AWAY FROM THE CURB, AND MAKES THE CORNER ON TWO WHEELS?

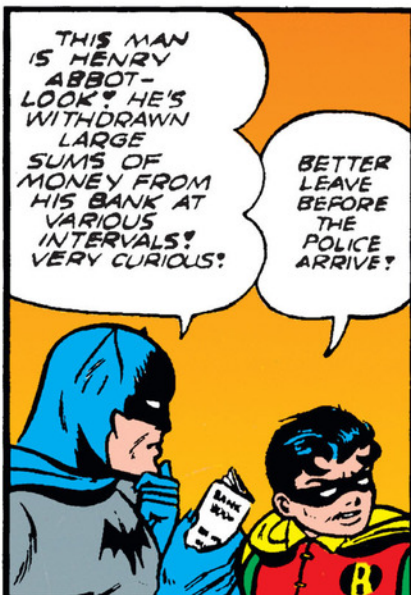
HOW'S YOUR THROAT?

IT HURTS? I CAN HARDLY BREATHE?





JUST A SECOND, ROBIN- LET'S FIND OUT WHO THIS FELLOW IS?



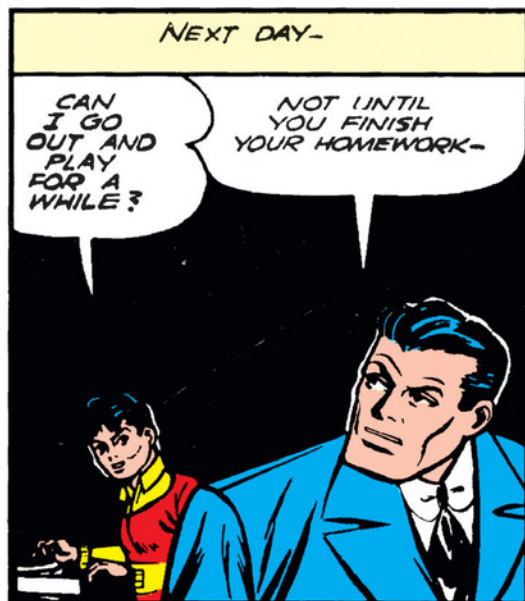
THIS MAN IS HENRY ABBOT- LOOK? HE'S WITHDRAWN LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM HIS BANK AT VARIOUS INTERVALS? VERY CURIOUS?

BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE?



I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT TONIGHT'S EVENTS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING?

RIGHT?



NEXT DAY-

CAN I GO OUT AND PLAY FOR A WHILE?

NOT UNTIL YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK-



HOMEWORK? (GRUMBLE) (GRUMBLE)

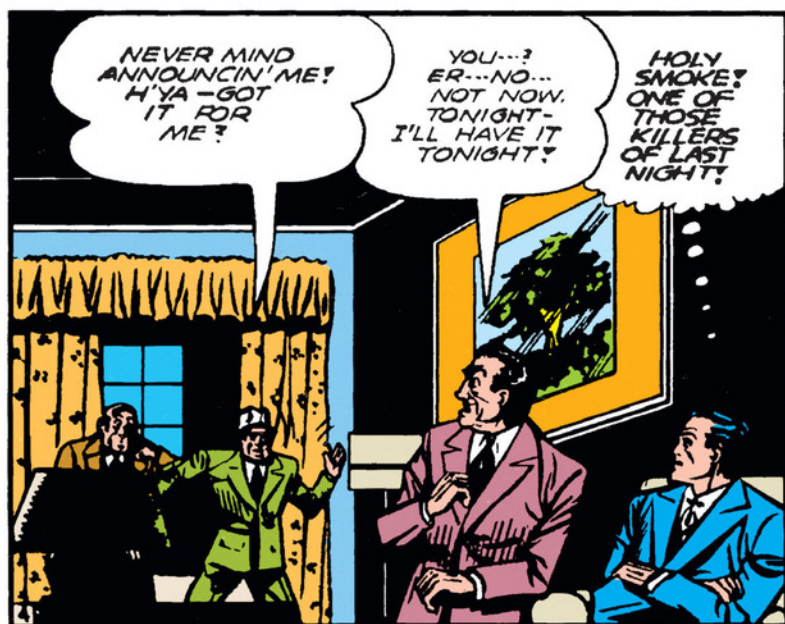
SO LONG NOW?



BRUCE VISITS AN OLD FRIEND--

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? YOU LOOK WORRIED?

I ? NOT I- HAT HAT?



NEVER MIND ANNOUNCIN' ME? H'YA -GOT IT FOR ME?

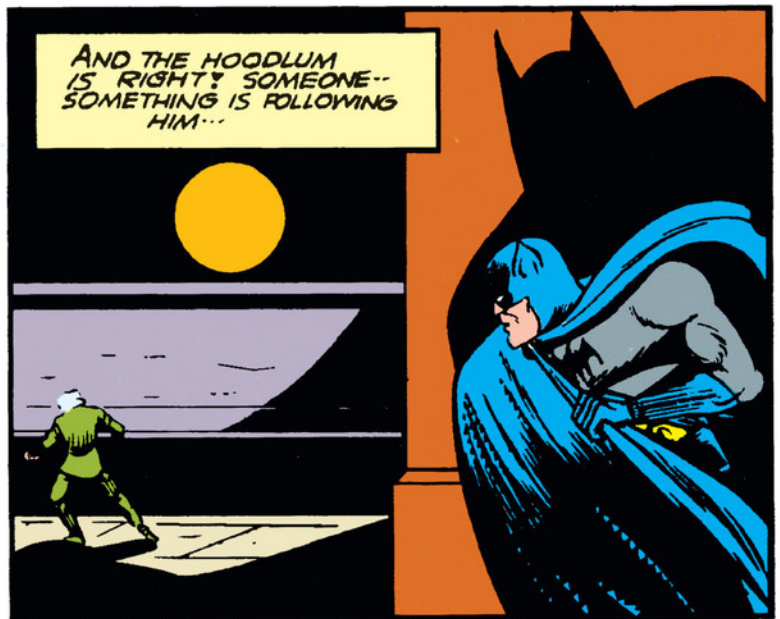
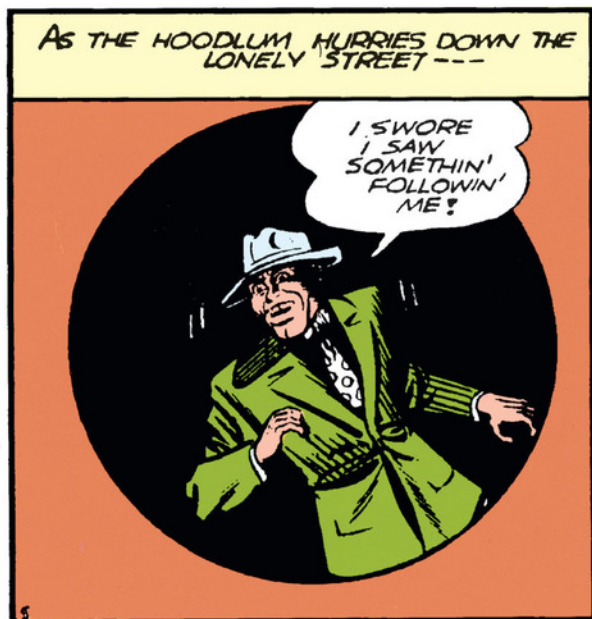
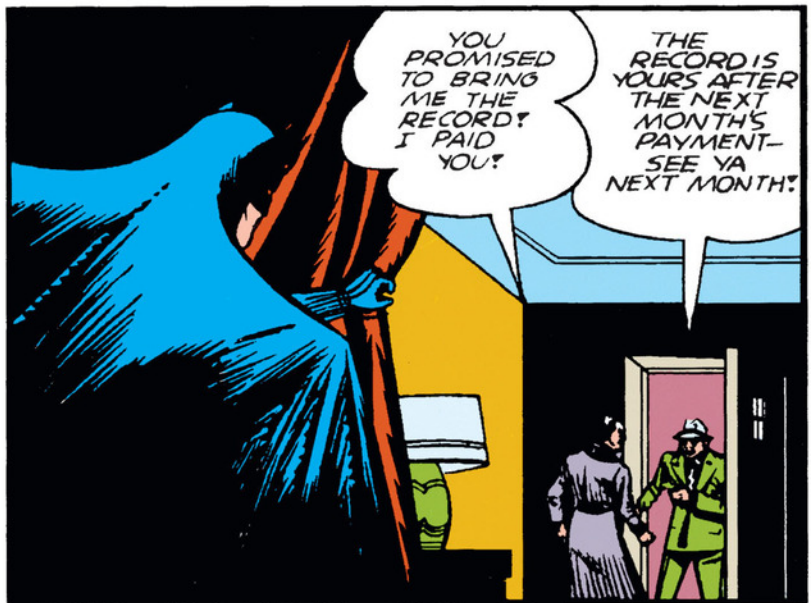
YOU...? ER...NO... NOT NOW. TONIGHT- I'LL HAVE IT TONIGHT?

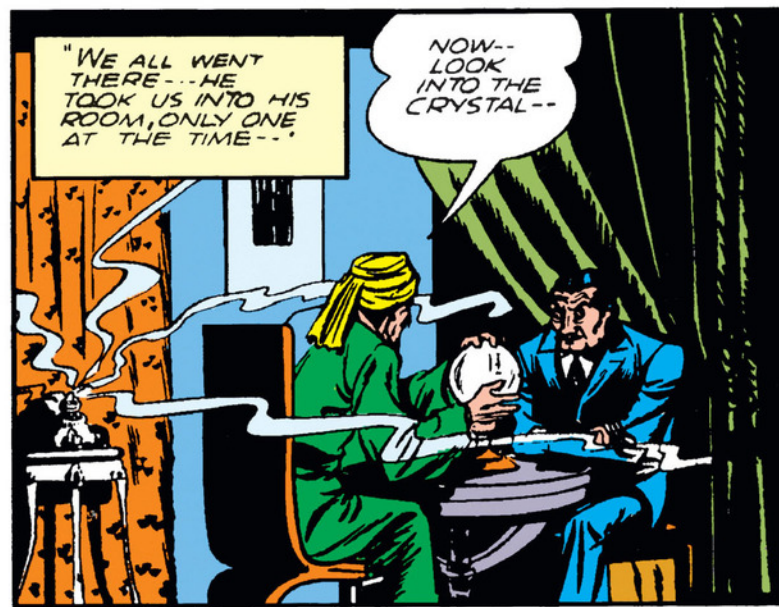
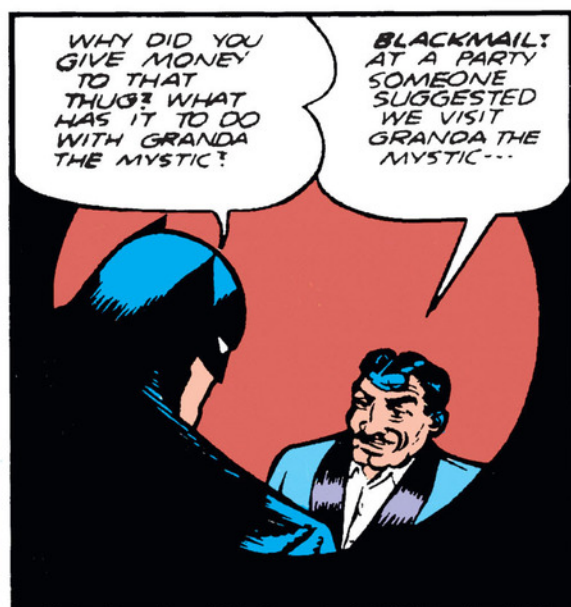
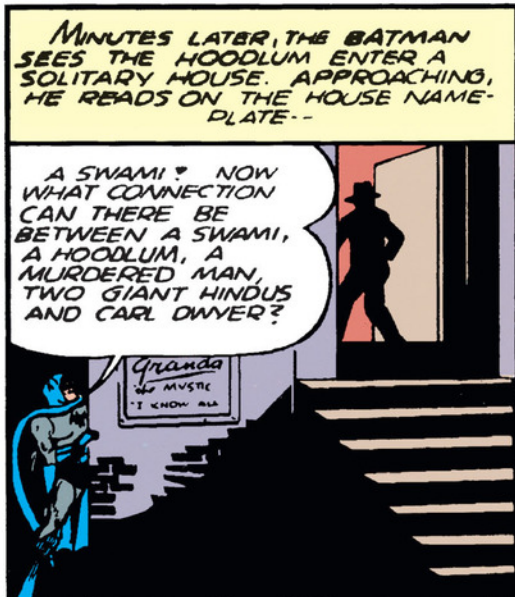
HOLY SMOKE? ONE OF THOSE KILLERS OF LAST NIGHT?

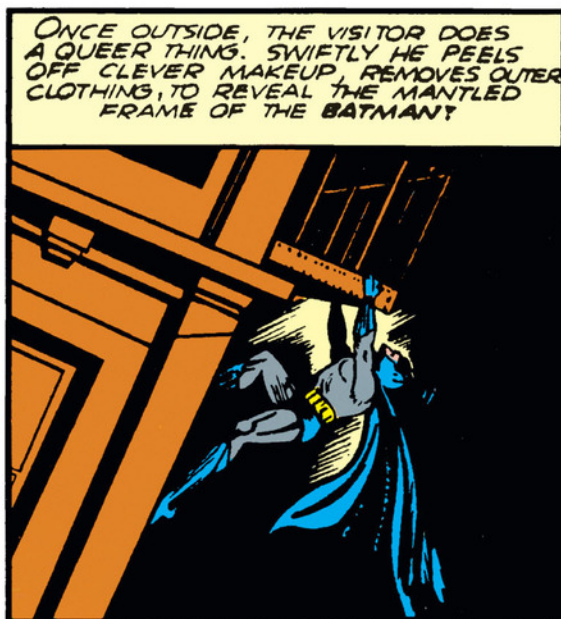
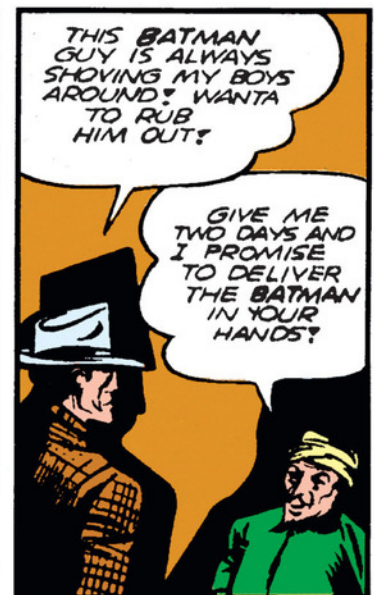


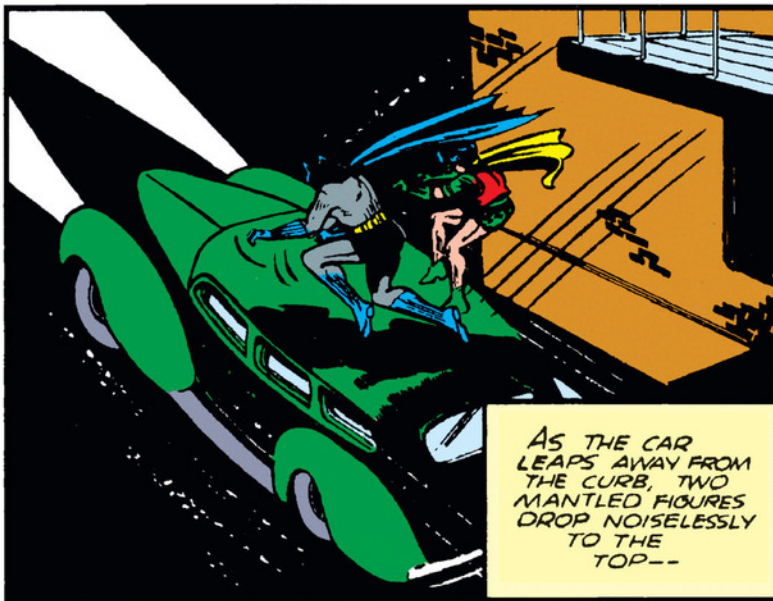
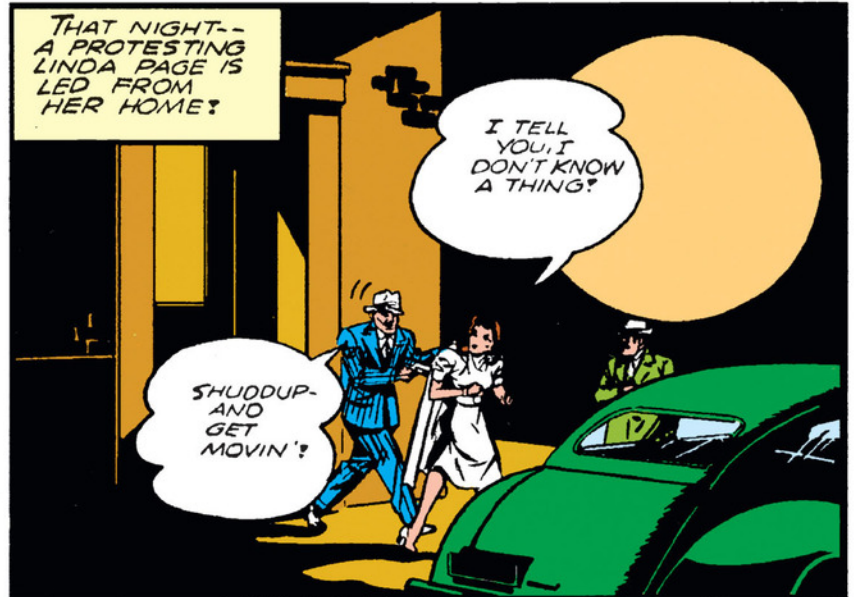
OKAY, I'LL BE BACK AT EIGHT? BETTER HAVE IT OR WE'LL PLAY A COUPLA RECORDS FO' YA?

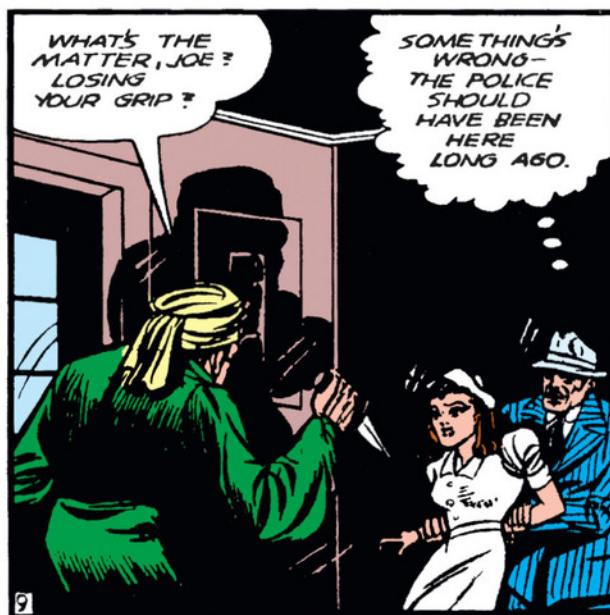
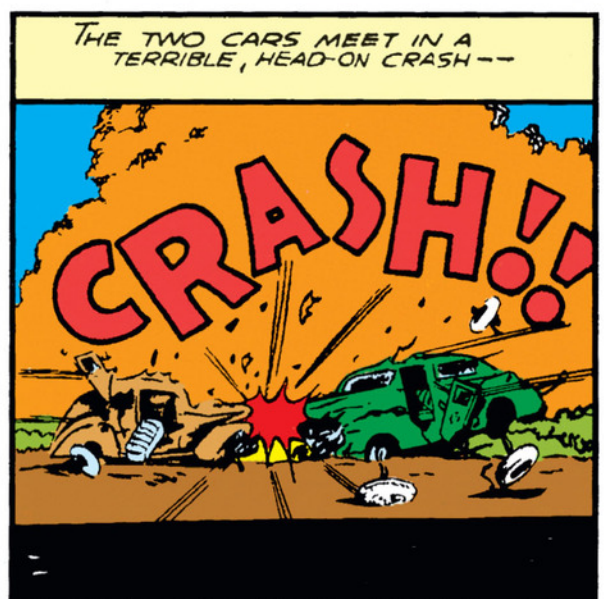
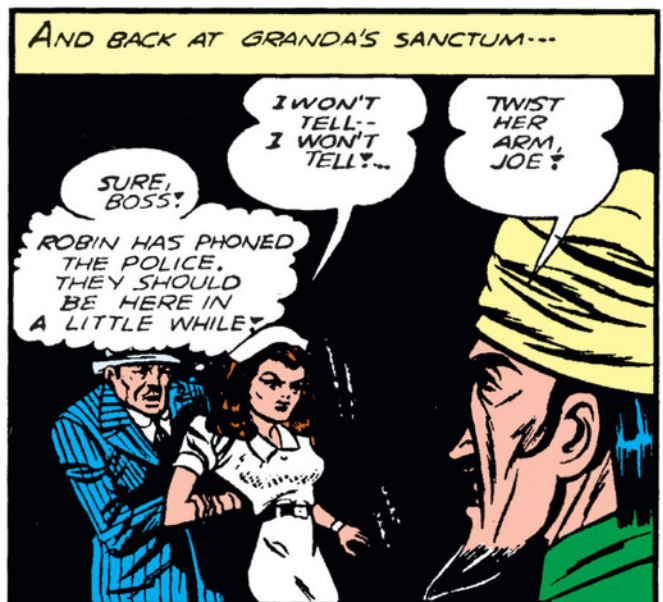
NO... I'LL HAVE IT-- I'LL HAVE IT?











THE LIGHTS FLASH ON AND
STANDING, TOWERING IN THE LIGHT---

THE
BATMAN?
YOU WERE
JOE?

YOU'RE
GETTING
SMARTER
BY THE
MINUTE?

EVEN AS THE
BATMAN CATAPULTS
FORWARD, GRANDA'S
FOOT FURTIVELY
PRESSES A FLOOR
BUTTON, AND--

--THE HINDU GIANTS LUMBER
INTO THE ROOM---

HOLY SMOKE?
THE BIG
BOYS AGAIN--

NIMBLE AS A
CAT, THE
BATMAN SLIPS
BENEATH THE
SLASHING
BLADE!

THE BATMAN CANNOT
AVOID THE SECOND
GIANT, WHO TOWERS
OVER HIM!

HI,
FELLA?

JUST
IN TIME,
ROBIN?

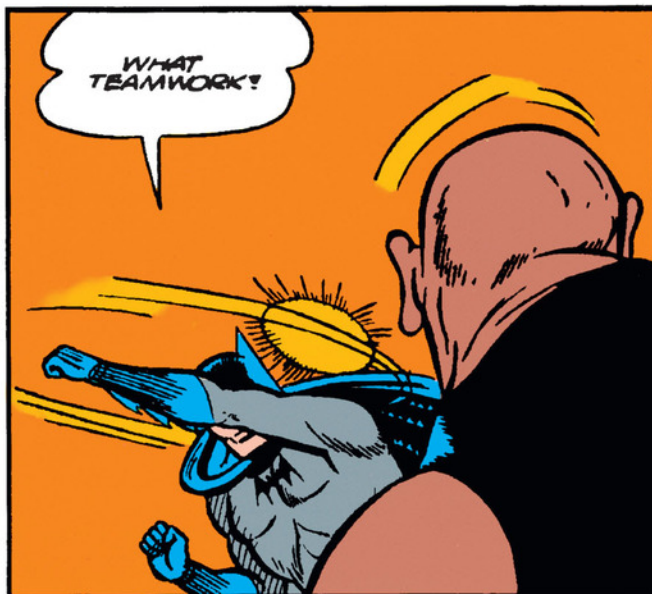
OH--
HERE
COMES
THE OTHER
SHRIMP?

... THEN --TRAPEZING
INTO THE ROOM--
ROBIN, THE BOY
WONDER--

ROBIN TILTS THE CRYSTAL SO THAT IT CATCHES THE LIGHT, AND FLASHES RAYS OF BLINDING RADIANCE AT THE GIANT'S EYES!



WHAT TEAMWORK?



FOR A MOMENT, THE GIANT SWAYS ON HIS FEET, AND THEN CRASHES TO THE FLOOR--AS THE OTHER GIANT RUSHES IN--



THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!



STAND WHERE YOU ARE, BATMAN? A BULLET WILL END YOUR LIFE!



GUNFIRE BLASTS THROUGH THE ROOM! A MAN TOPPLES-- BUT NOT THE BATMAN--



MISS PAGE, ROBIN? BATMAN-- I FIGURED YOU'D FIX GRANDA SOME WAY. WELL, GRANDA-- WE'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME!



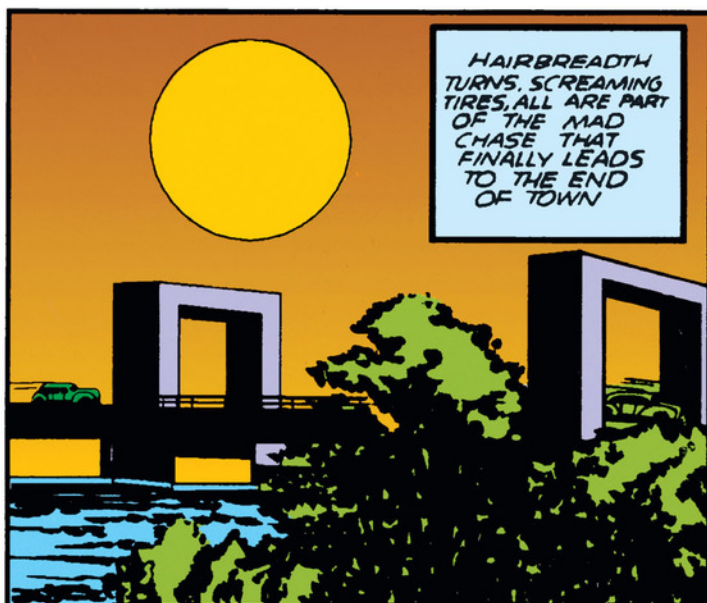
LIKE A CORNERED RAT GRANDA MAKES A DESPERATE TRY FOR ESCAPE



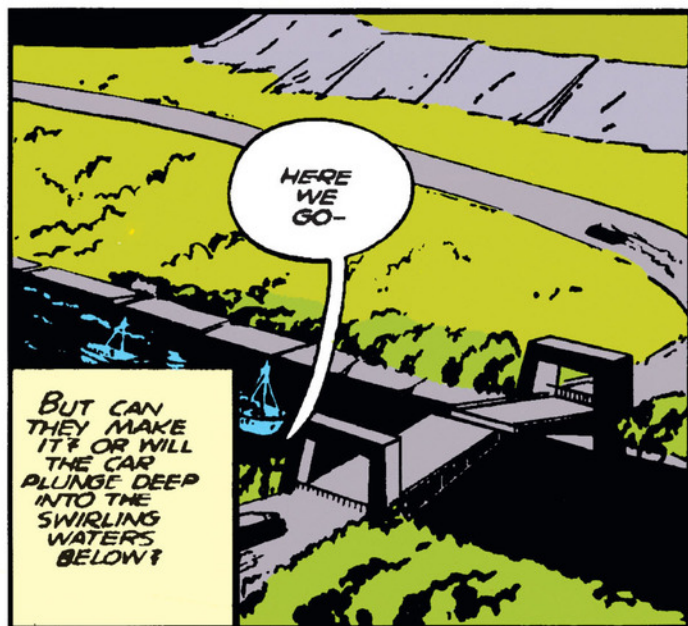
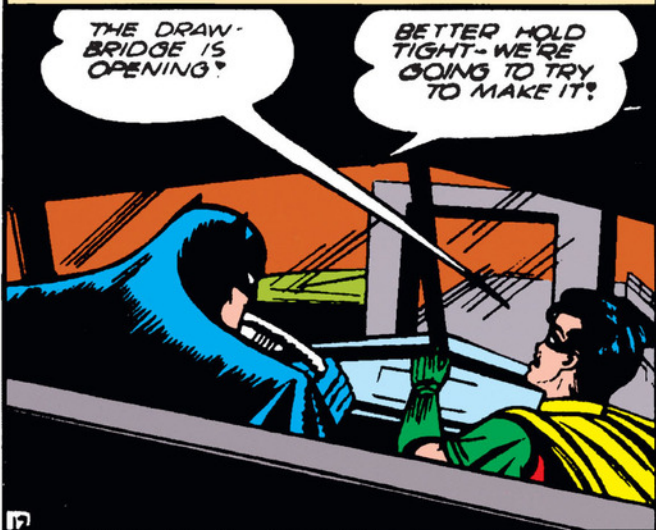
A CLASH OF GEARS ---AND GRANDA SPEEDS AWAY AS TWO FIGURES FOLLOW HIS PATH OF FLIGHT!



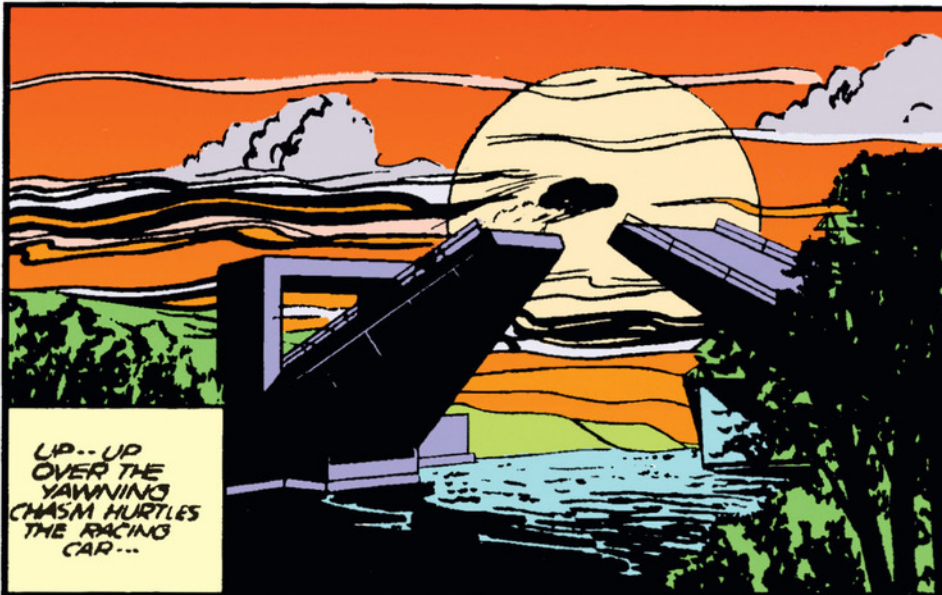
WITH THE BATMAN AT THE WHEEL, THE POLICE CAR WHIPS AWAY AFTER GRANDA!



AS THE BATMAN'S CAR APPROACHES, A DRAWBRIDGE STARTS TO OPEN TO LET A HIGH-STACKED STEAMER PASS BELOW!



BUT CAN THEY MAKE IT? OR WILL THE CAR PLUNGE DEEP INTO THE SWIRLING WATERS BELOW?

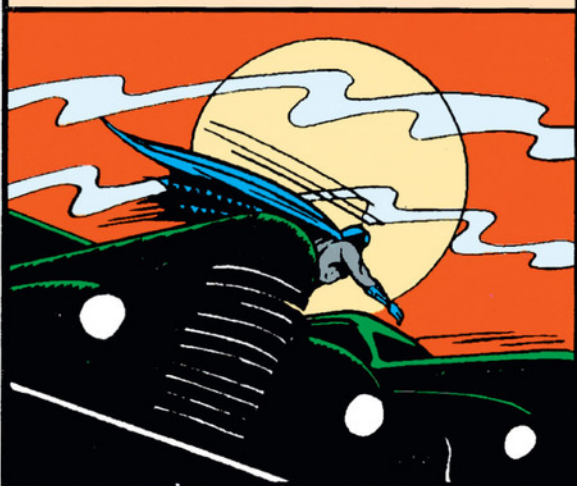


UP--UP
OVER THE
YAWNING
CHASM HURTLING
THE RACING
CAR---



MADE
IT!

AS THEY DRAW ALONGSIDE GRANDA'S
FLASHING AUTOMOBILE, THE BATMAN
LEAPS---



THROUGH THE OPEN
WINDOW STREAKS THE
BATMAN'S BALLED FIST!



BOB
KANE

LATER....

HERE'S
GRANDA?
I SEE YOU
FOUND
THE BOYS
WHERE I
LEFT THEM?

YES--
AND
THEY'VE
BEEN
TALKING!
THIS
ENDS
GRANDA'S
BLACK MAILING.



HYPNOTIZING
PEOPLE AND THEN
GETTING RECORDINGS
OF THEIR INNERMOST
SECRETS. THIS IS
THE ROOM
WHERE HE
HID HIS RECORDS?



NICE
WORK,
GORDON!

GRANDA'S MEN
CONFERRED TO
THE MURDER
OF HENRY ABBOT?
ABBOT WAS
GOING TO
TELL THE
POLICE
ABOUT THE
BLACK MAIL?



GRANDA
KILLED
HIM TO
PROTECT
HIMSELF--
GRANDA,
YOU'RE GET-
TING THE
CHAIR
FOR THIS!

THE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT,
THE PEOPLE
OF THE
CITY
THANK YOU
AND ROBIN
FOR THE
SWELL JOB
YOU DID?



SEE
WHAT I
MEAN BY
DOING YOUR
HOMEWORK
AND GAINING
THE RESPECT
OF YOUR
FELLOWMAN?

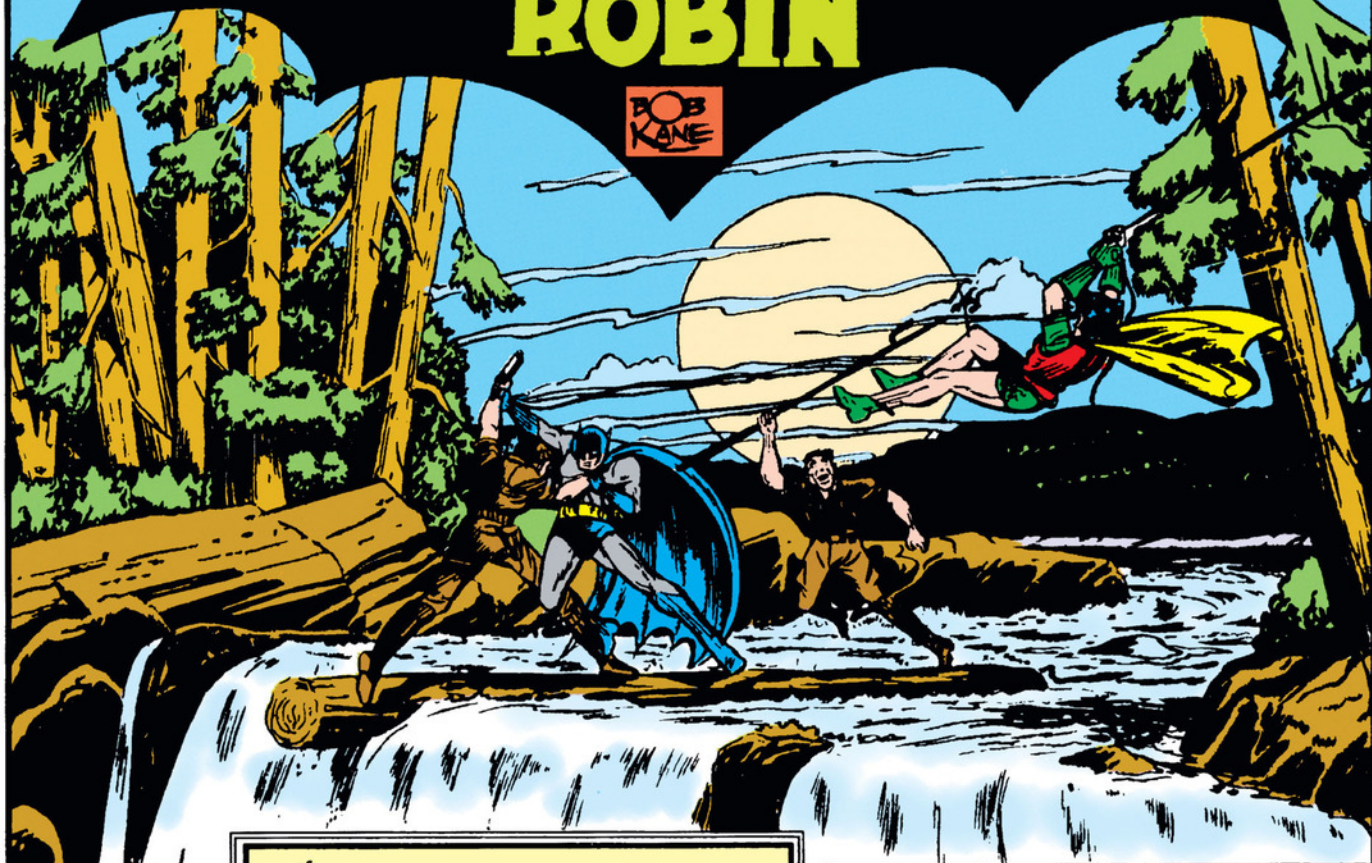
OKAY--
OKAY
YOU
WIN!

THE
END

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

BOB
KANE

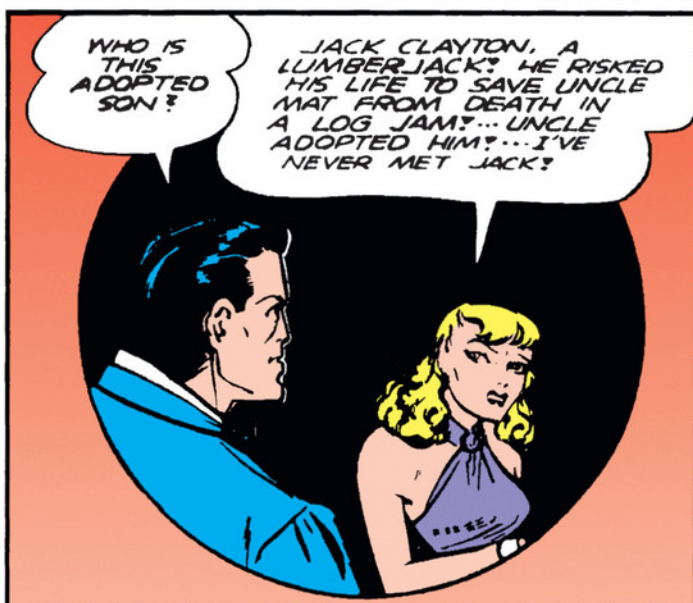
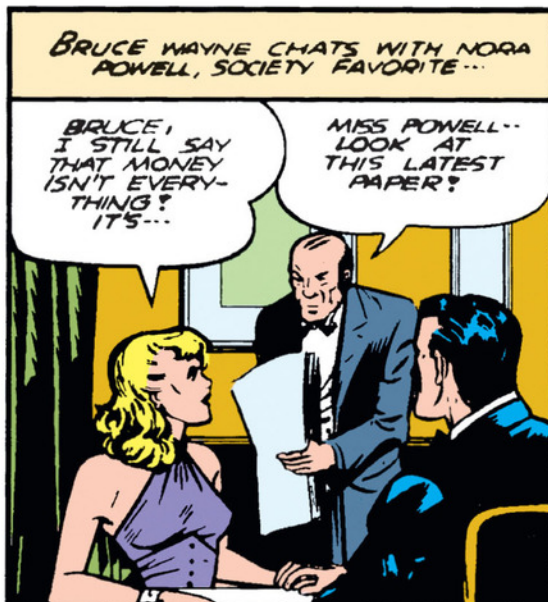


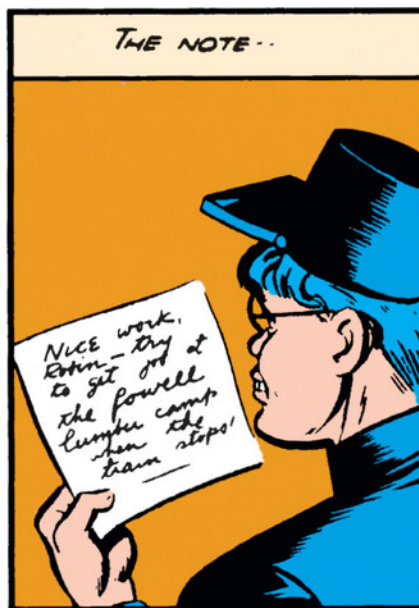
LIKE GIANTS OF OLD, THE BIG TREES OF THE NORTH WOODS REAR UP...UP INTO THE SKY UNTIL THEIR LEAFY BRANCHES SEEM TO TOUCH THE HEAVENS. HERE, AMIDST THESE TOWERING COLOSSI, ARE TO BE FOUND THE LUMBER CAMPS--SMALL COLONIES OF MEN WHOSE SHINY AXES AND MANY SAWS BITE MORTALLY AT THESE SOARING WOODEN COLUMNS, TOPPLING THEM TO THE GROUND, WHERE EACH OF THE MIGHTY CRASHES HEAVILY, SHAKING THE EARTH ABOUT IT. HERE-- HERE TO THE LAND OF WOODEN GIANTS COME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TO FIND ADVENTURE AND THE STRANGE ANSWER TO--

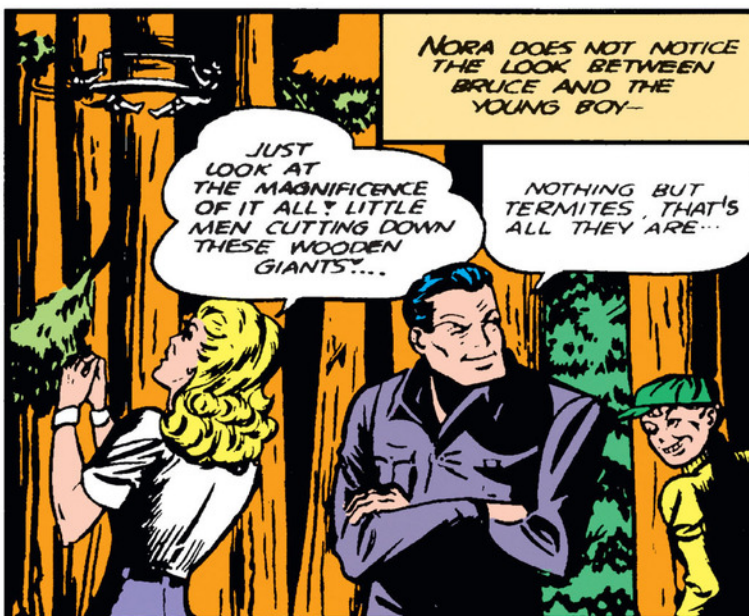
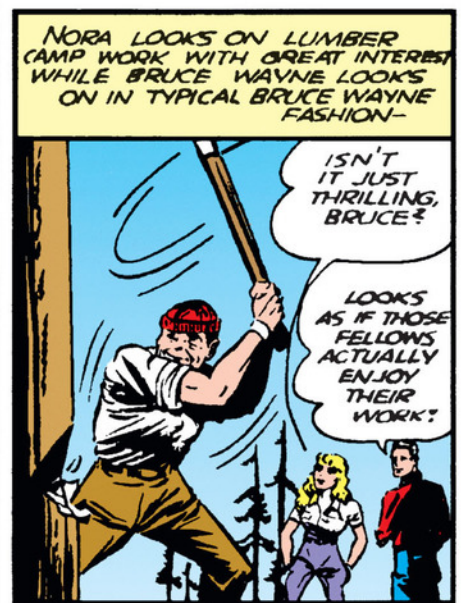
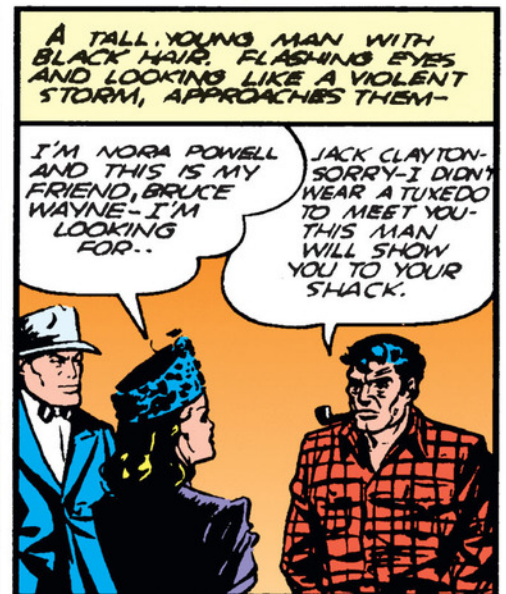
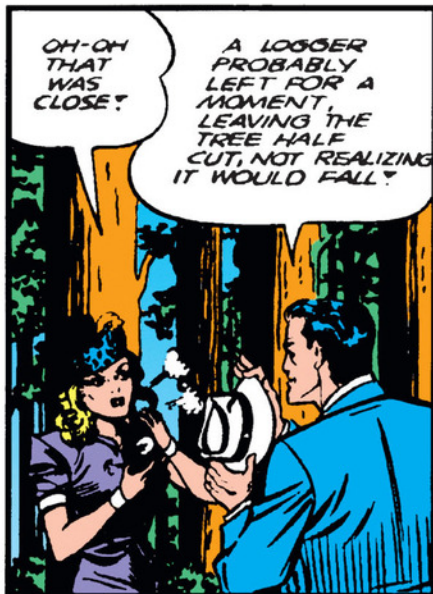
"The NORTH WOODS MYSTERY."

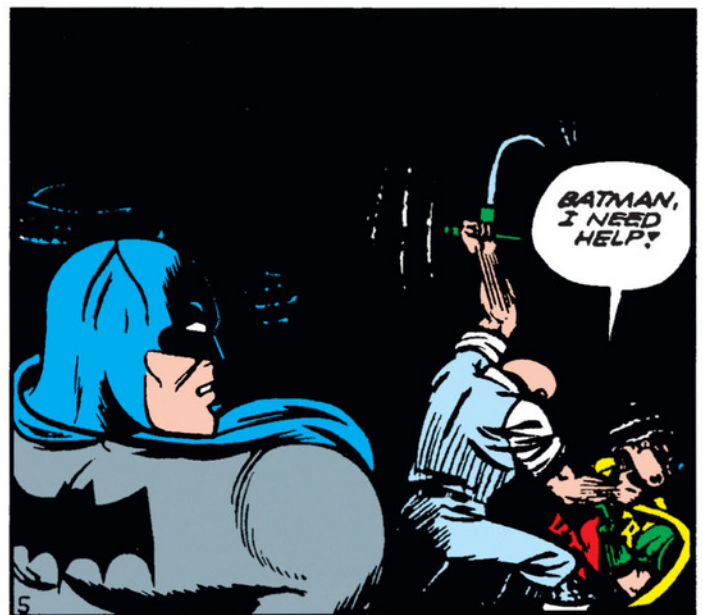
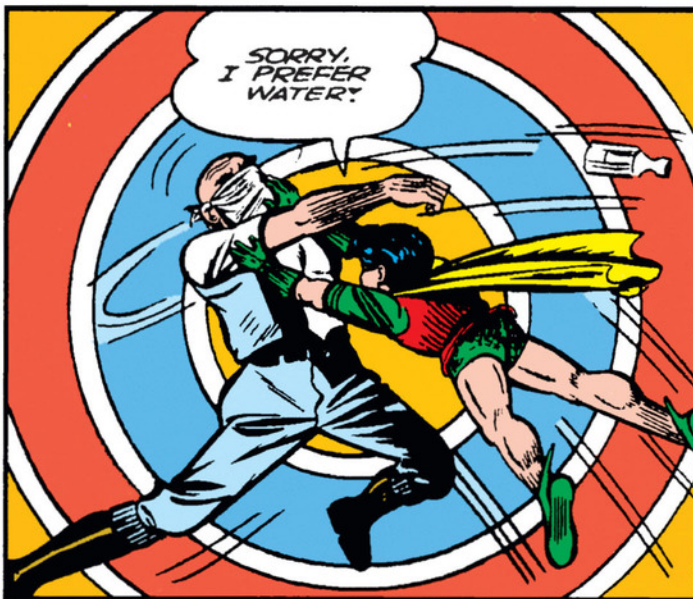
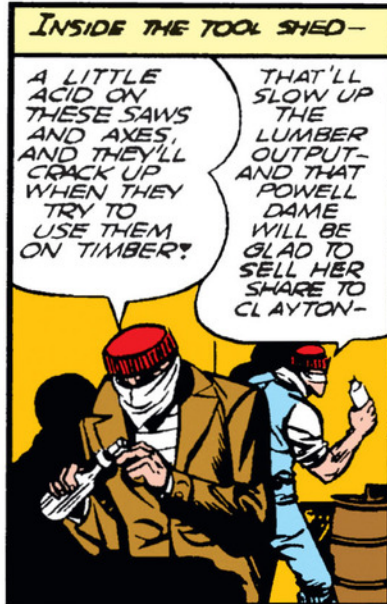
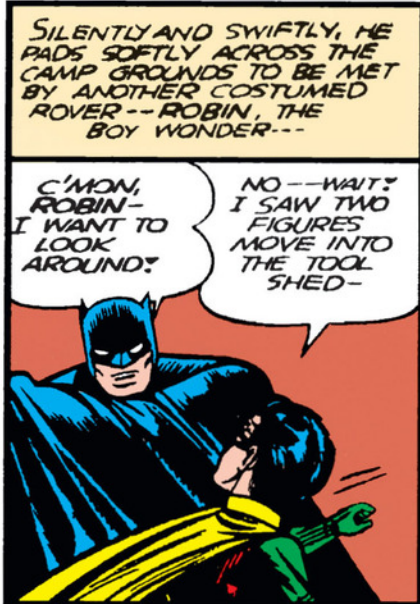
THE MOON -- A GIANT WHITE EYE--LOOKS DOWN ON THE NORTHWOODS--AND MURDER?













TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MELEE, THE OTHER MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE?

HE'S GETTING AWAY?

NEVER MIND! WE'VE STILL GOT HIS PAL TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS!



EAGER TO DODGE FURTHER PUNISHMENT, THE REMAINING WRECKER CRINGES BACK BEFORE THE BATMAN, AND IN HIS PANIC, STUMBLES AGAINST A BEAM? A HEAVY HOOK IS LOOSED FROM ITS RACK AND...

FEEL LIKE TALKING, OR...

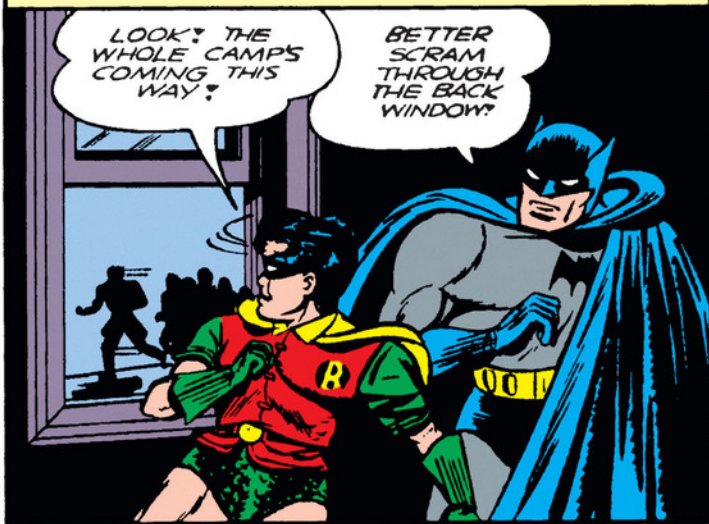
NO--- NO--- I'LL TALK--



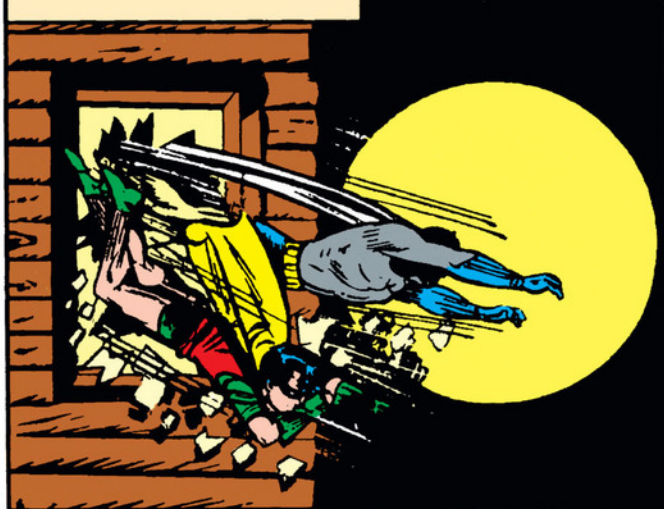
---AND PLUNGING DOWNWARD, SILENCES HIM FOREVER---



DRAWN TO THE SCENE BY THE DIN OF BATTLE---



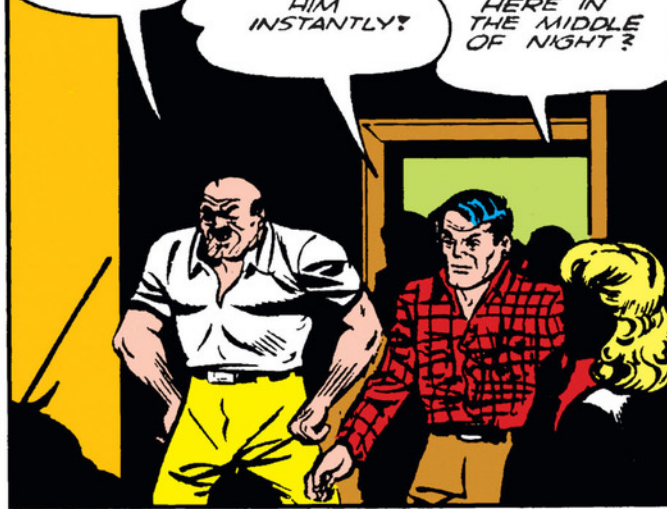
THE TWO-MAN REGIMENT BEAT HASTY RETREAT---

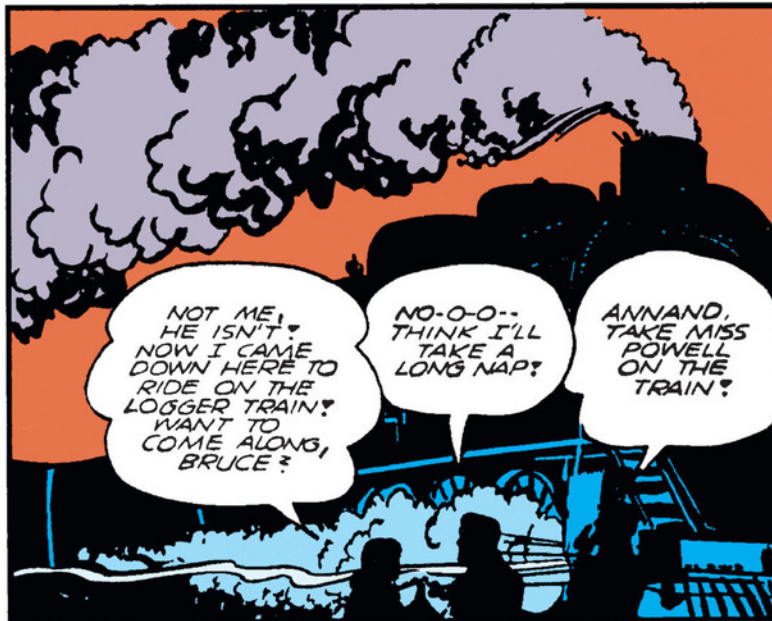
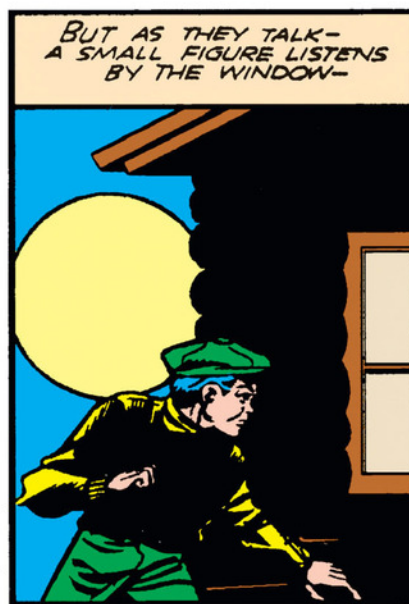
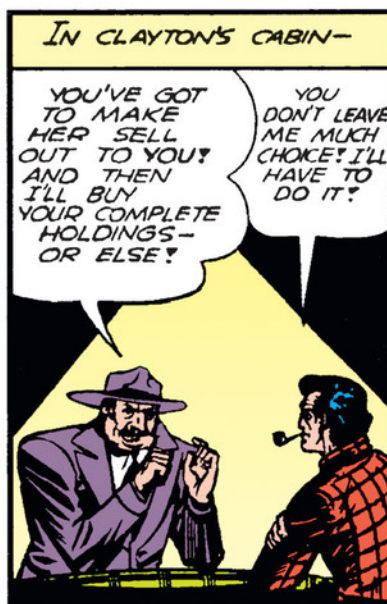
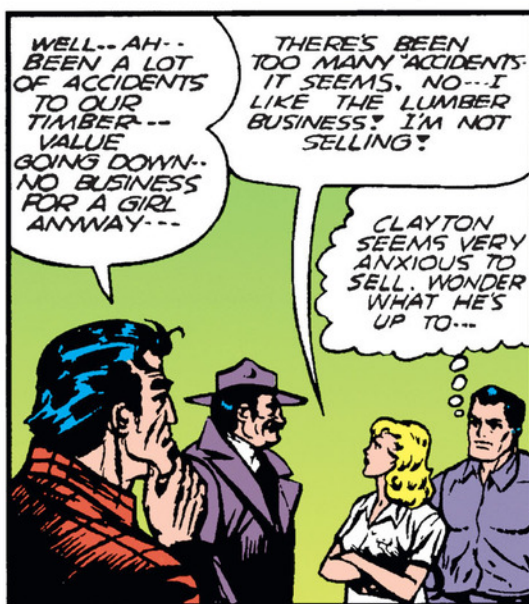
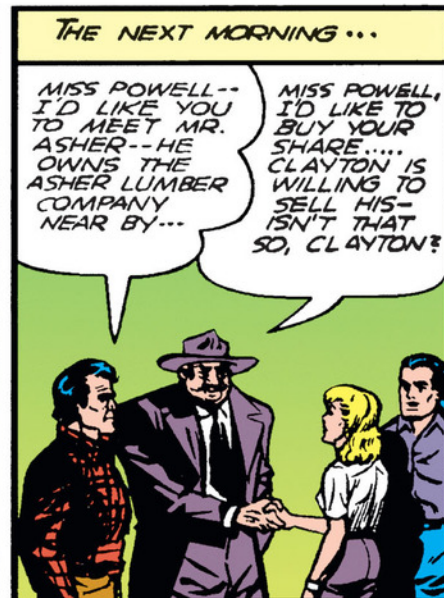
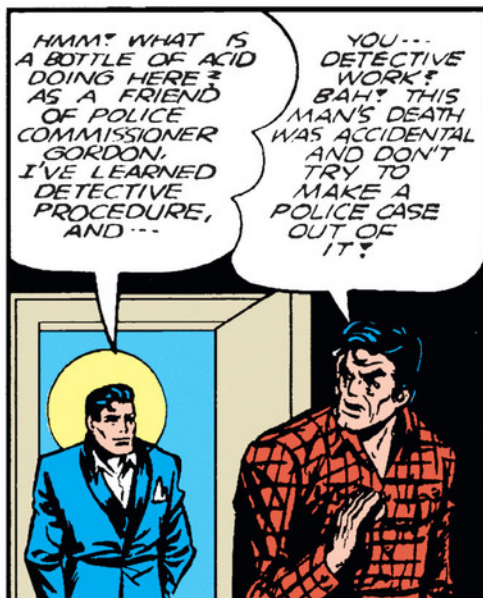


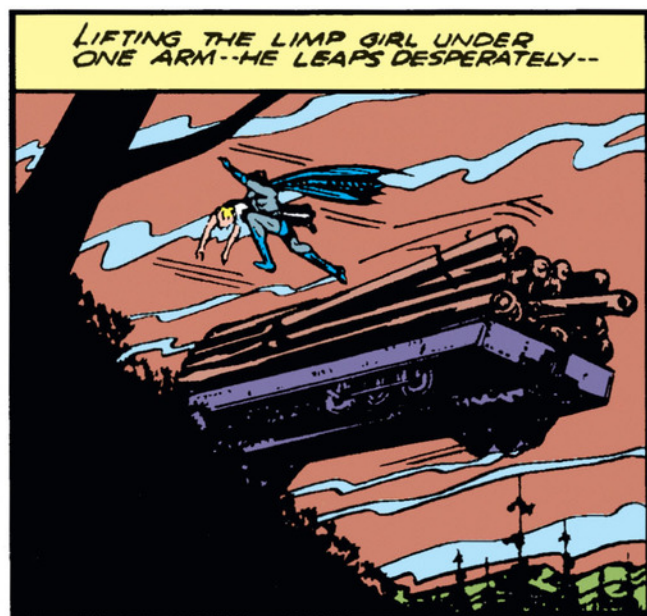
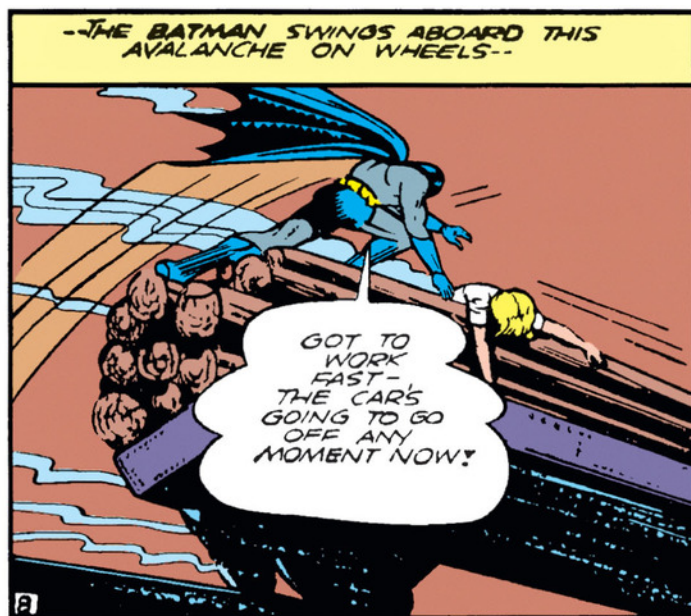
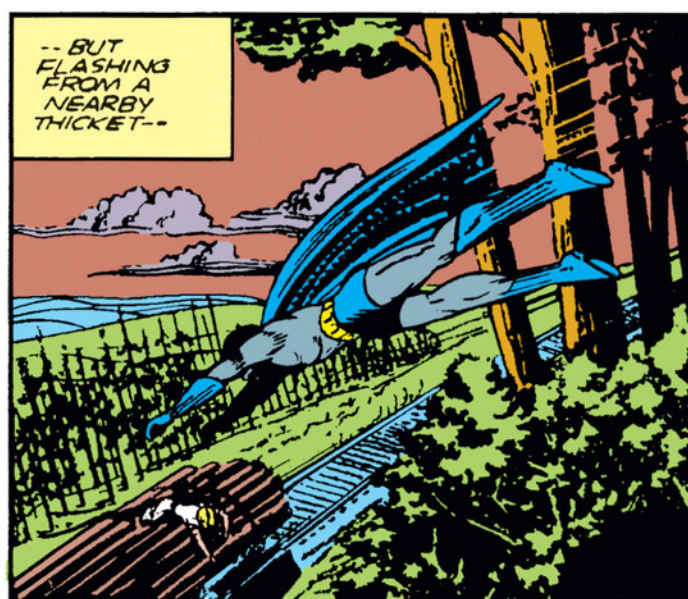
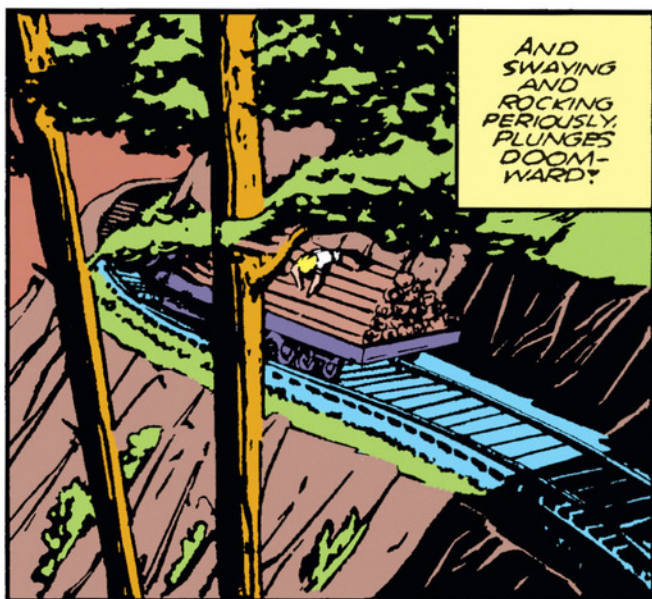
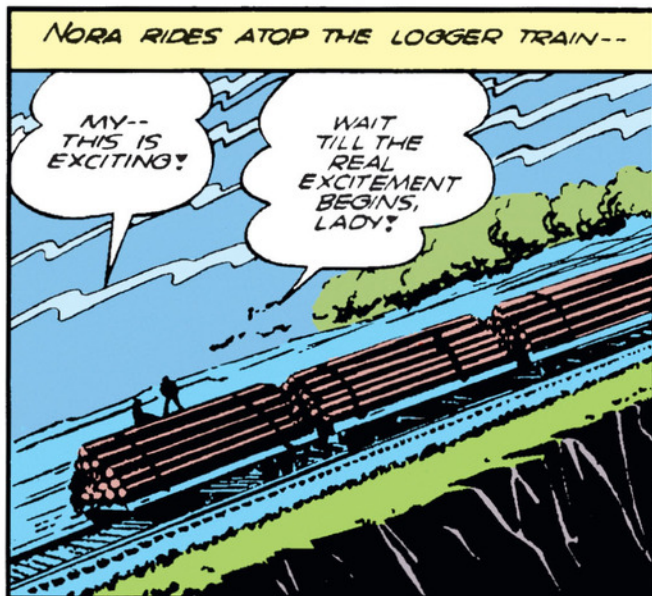
WHY, IT'S WOODY JOE?

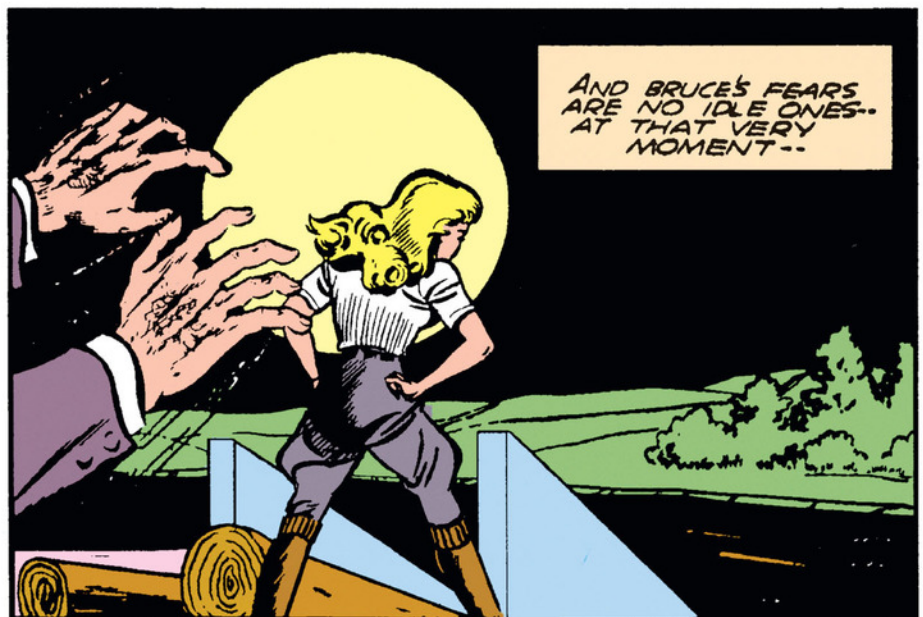
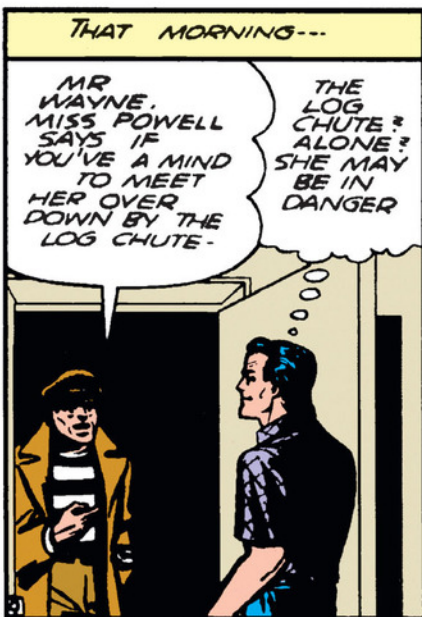
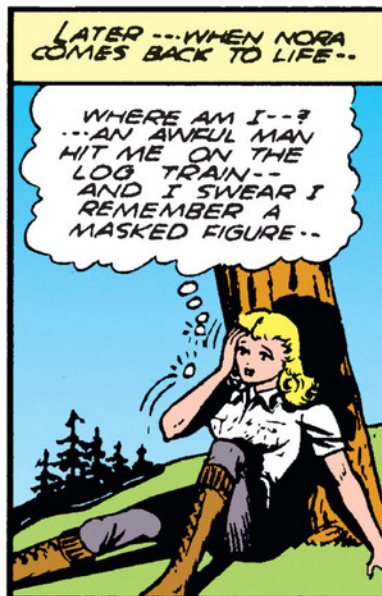
THAT HOOK-- MUST HAVE KILLED HIM INSTANTLY?

HOW TERRIBLE-- WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NIGHT?









A MURDERER'S HANDS ARE AT THEIR TERRIBLE TASK!



HELP!
MY ARM!
OH, MY
ARM--
IT'S
BROKEN!



DESPERATELY--
FIGHTING FOR HER
LIFE--NORA RIDES
THE TIDE OF LEAPING
LOGS, WHICH BOUND
DOWN THE CHUTE
LIKE TON-WEIGHT,
WOODEN
KANGAROOS--

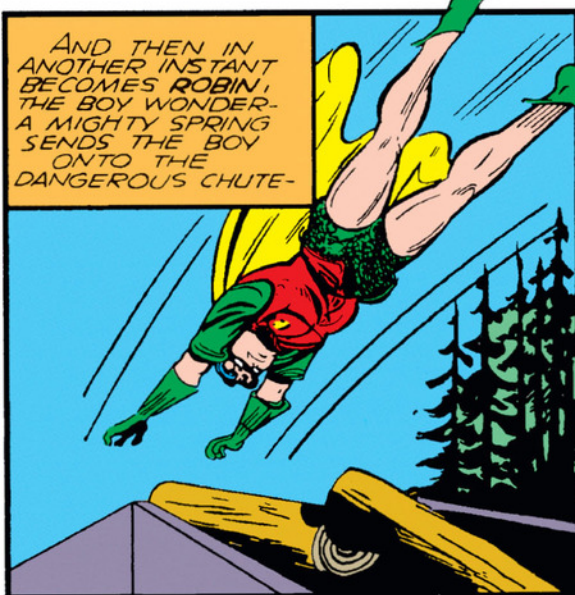
BUT IN THAT
HIDEOUSLY
REAL, NIGHTMARE
INSTANT--

TIME FOR
ME TO SHOW
MY TRUE
COLORS--



THE CAMP
BOY BECOMES
DICK GRAYSON, WARD
OF BRUCE WAYNE--

AND THEN IN
ANOTHER INSTANT
BECOMES ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER--
A MIGHTY SPRING
SENDS THE BOY
ONTO THE
DANGEROUS CHUTE--

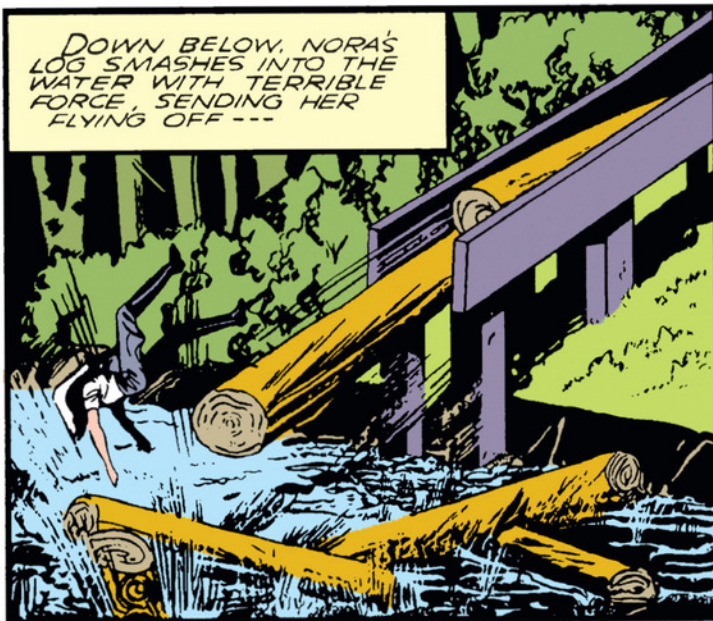


LIKE A COWBOY ON
HORSEBACK, ROBIN
RIDES HIS BUCKING,
WOODEN BRONCO--



ONE
SLIP AND
I'M DONE
FOR!

DOWN BELOW, NORA'S
LOG SMASHES INTO THE
WATER WITH TERRIBLE
FORCE, SENDING HER
FLYING OFF ---



-- BUT
WITH HER
ONE GOOD
ARM SHE
MANAGES
TO REGAIN
HER SINGLE-
PLANKED
RAFT!

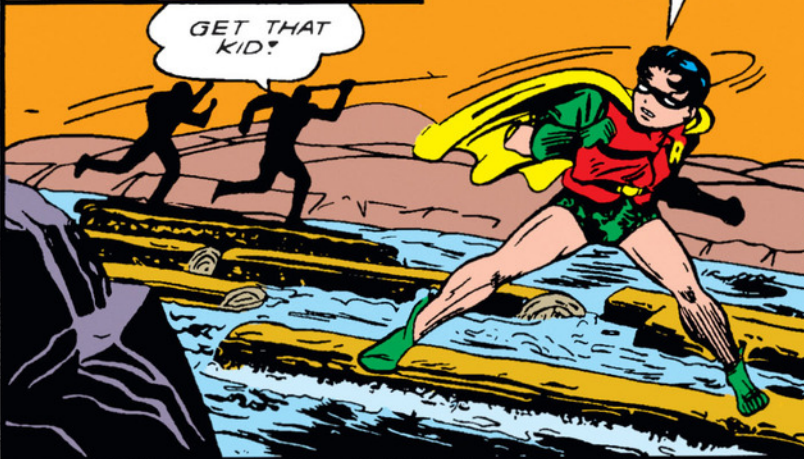


MADE IT---
GOT TO
HOLD ON--
GOT TO--

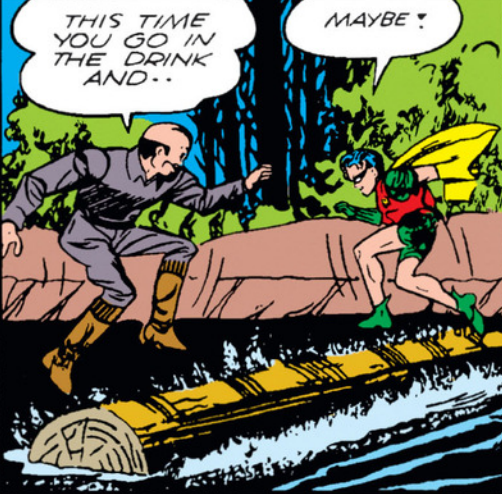
ROBIN SPIES HER AND QUICKLY
BOUNDS ACROSS THE SWAYING,
ROLLING LOGS AS THEY RIDE
DOWN THE SWIFT-MOVING
RIVER---



BUT HE IS ALSO SPIED BY
ENEMY LOGGERS, WHO DART
AFTER HIM IN SWIFT
PURSUIT!



AND DOES "ROLEE RIDING"
WITH ANOTHER ON THE
SLIPPERY, WAX-SMOOTH TIMBER-



A CLEVER BIT OF FOOT WORK
DISPOSES OF HIS SECOND
OPPONENT!

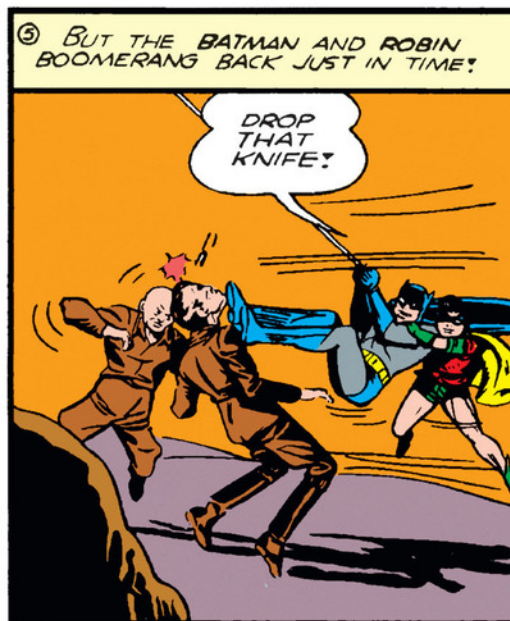
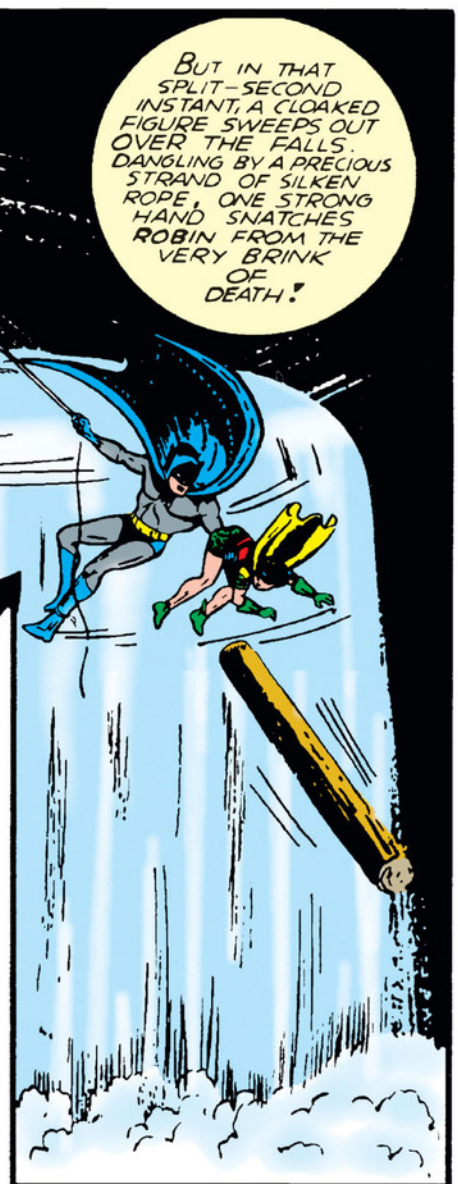


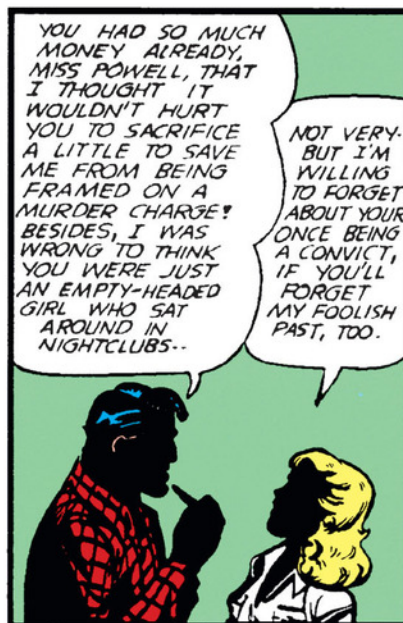
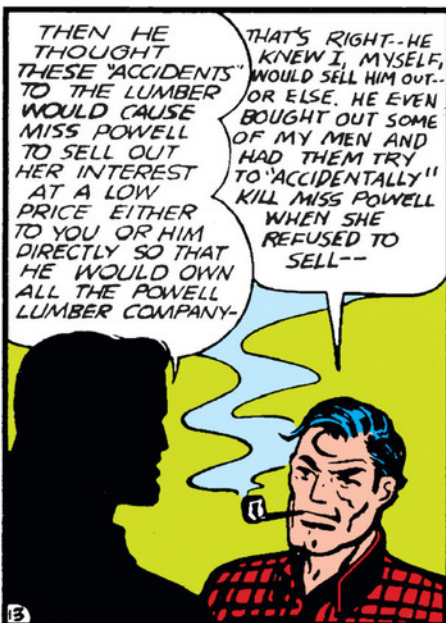
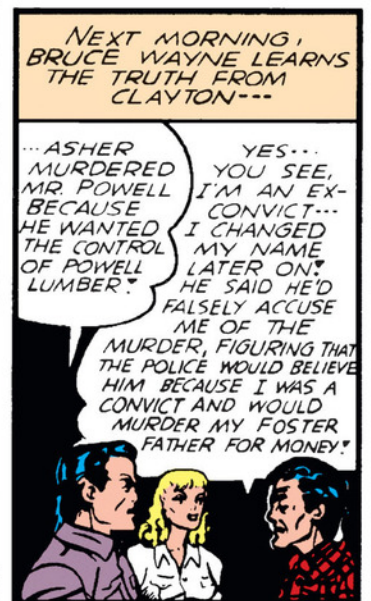
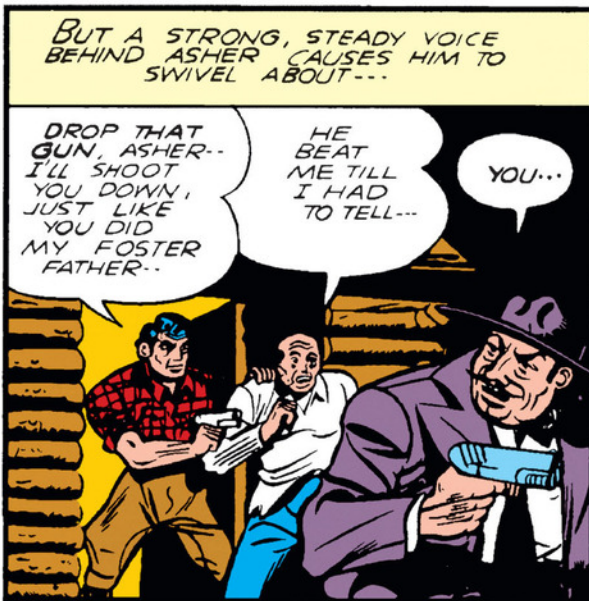
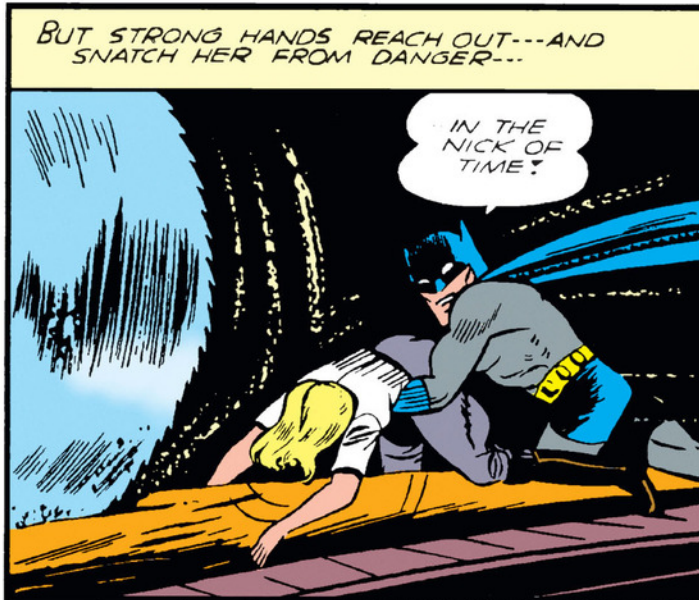
MEANWHILE, THE PAIN OF HER
BROKEN ARM PROVES TOO MUCH
FOR NORA! SHE FAINTS DEAD AWAY
AS THE LOG IS DRAWN UP INTO THE
CONVEYER THAT LEADS TO THE
SAWMILL!



BUT ROBIN'S LOG IS CLEVERLY
MANEUVERED BY THE THIRD
LOGGER, SO THAT IT CLEARS
THE LOG JAM -- AND RIDES
ON DOWN THE RACING WATERS.







BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

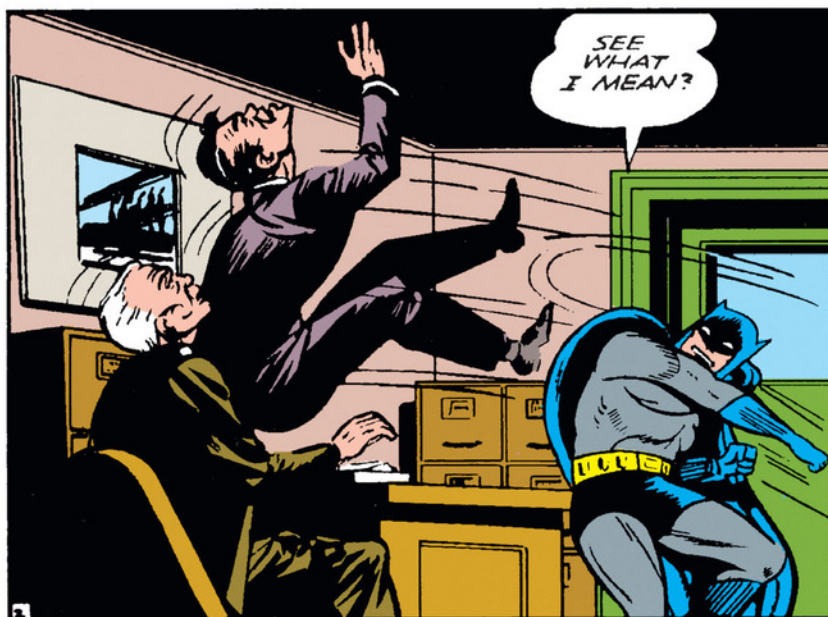
COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST HAD THE BATMAN RESCUED INNOCENT HUMANS FROM DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT BY UNEARTHING TRUE EVIDENCE THAT TRAPPED THE REAL CRIMINAL. BUT WHO IS THERE TO SAVE THE BATMAN HIMSELF FROM SUCH A PREDICAMENT? FOR NOW, THE BATMAN FACES HIS SUPREME TEST OF HIS CAREER: HELPLESS, BOUND IN A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, HE MUST SOMEHOW ENTANGLE THE REAL CRIMINAL IN LINKS OF HIS OWN MAKING? HOW HE DOES SO WITH THE CRIMINAL AID OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, MAKES AN ABSORBING STORY. WHEN WE READ OF "THE PEOPLE VS. THE BATMAN."

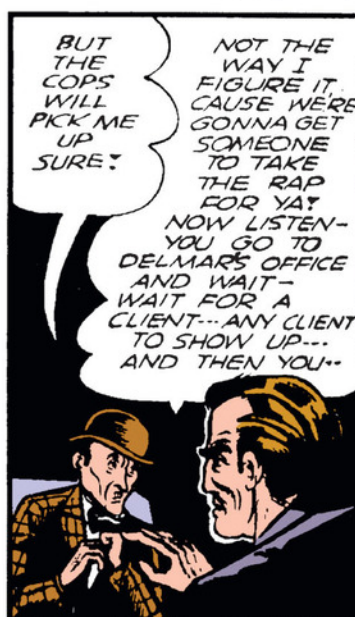
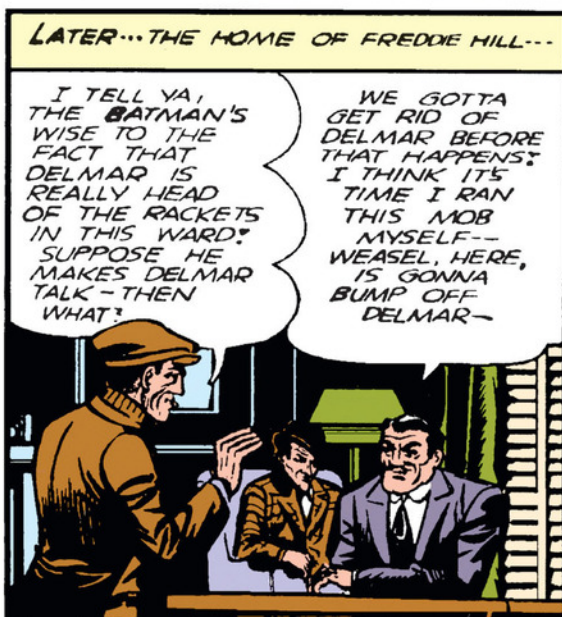
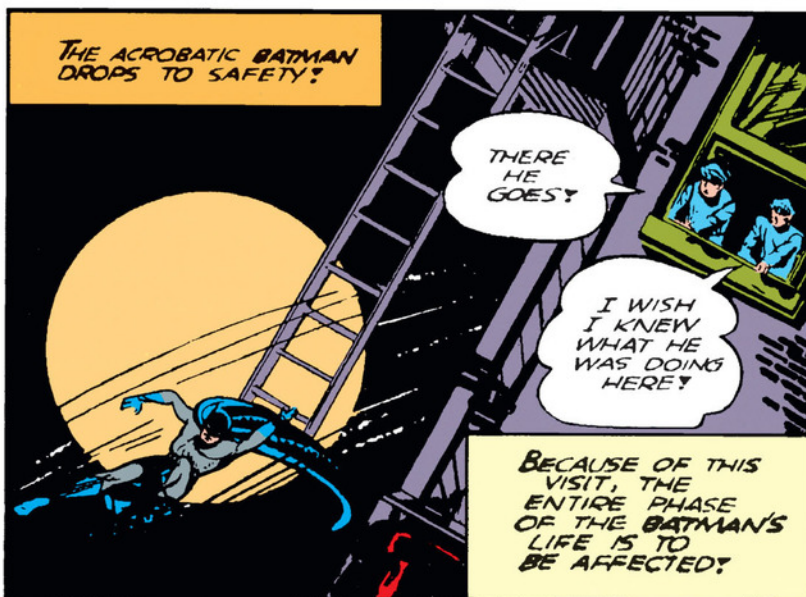
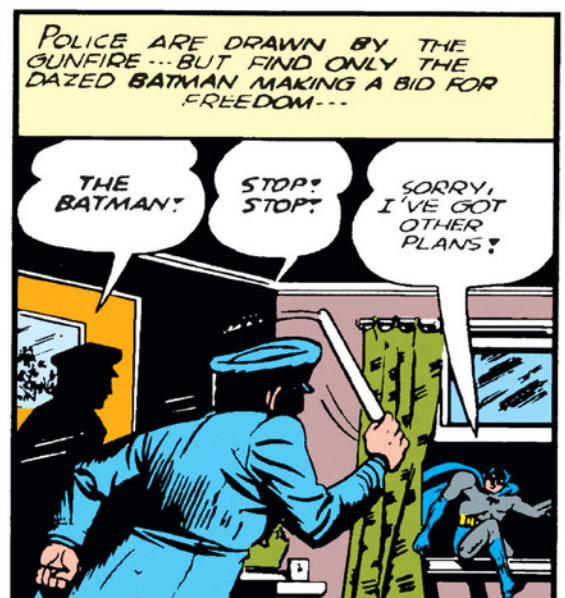
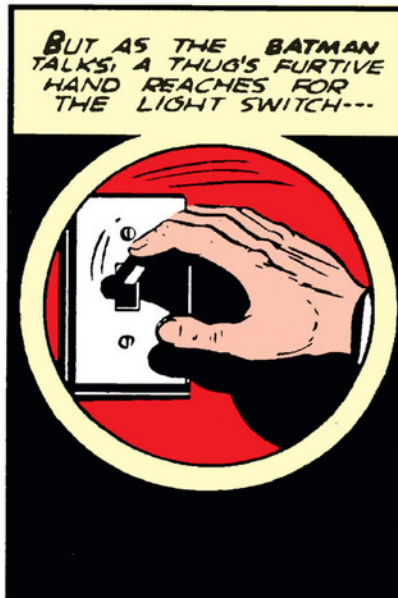
BOB KANE

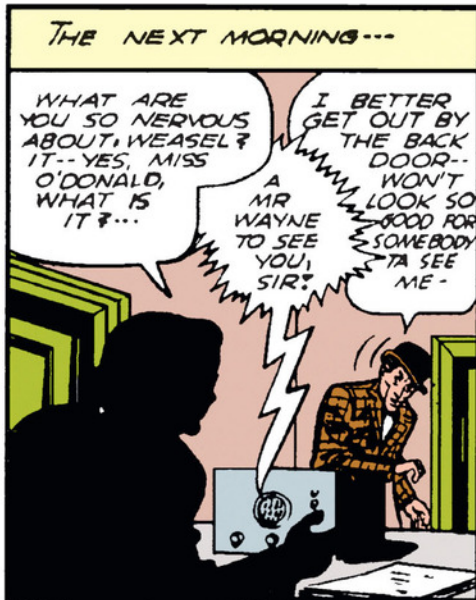


A CLOAKED FIGURE PADS SILENTLY THRU A DARK CORRIDOR. AHEAD, A PATCH OF LIGHT DRAWS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LIKE A FLAME DRAWS A MOTH--









WITH A CRY, WEASEL HOLDS THE GUN UP AND FIRES A SHOT THROUGH HIS OWN HAT?



THEN THE MURDERER TOSSES THE SMOKING GUN TO BRUCE--

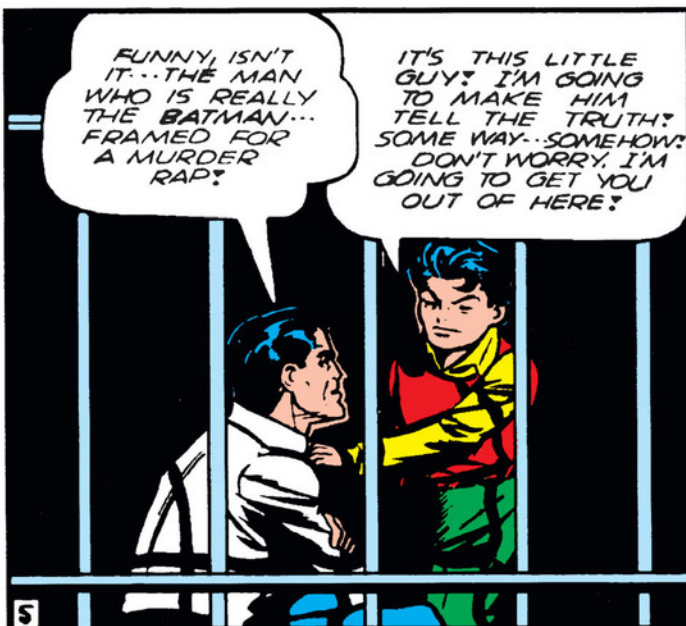
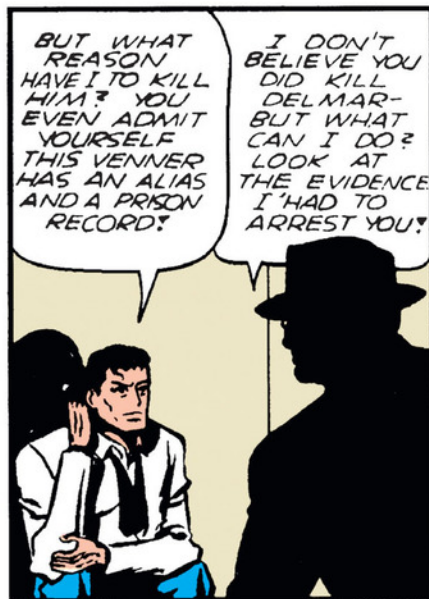
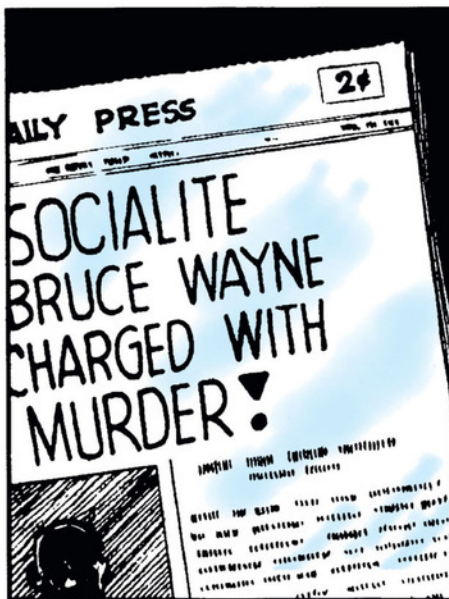


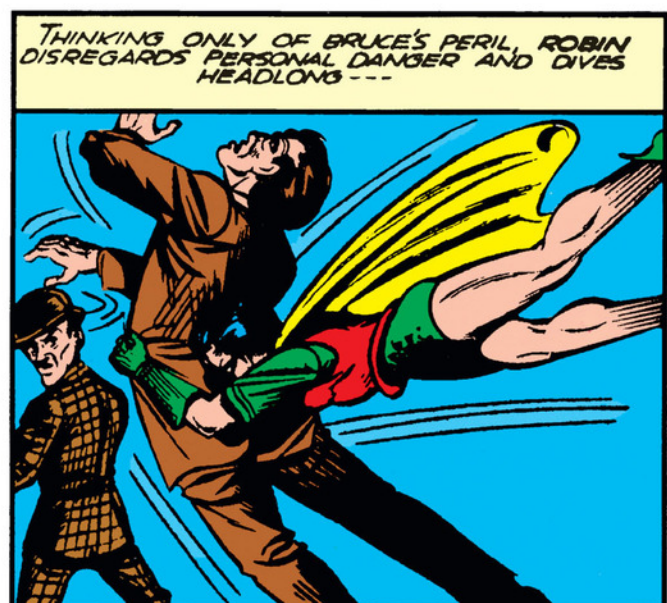
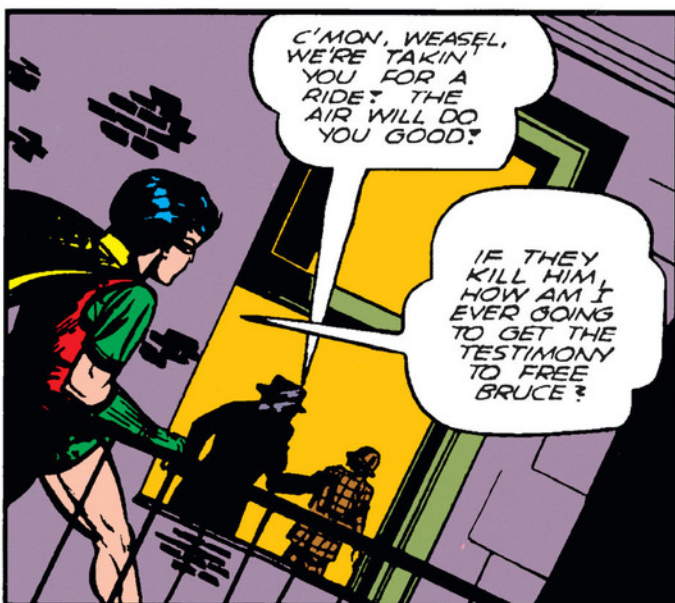
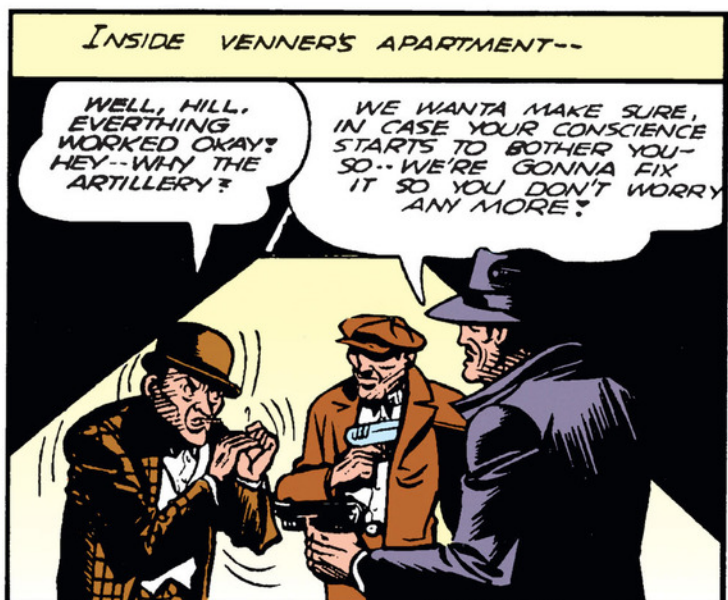
INSTINCTIVELY, BRUCE CATCHES THE WEAPON, AS ALL PERSONS WILL DO WHEN OBJECTS ARE TOSSED AT THEM?

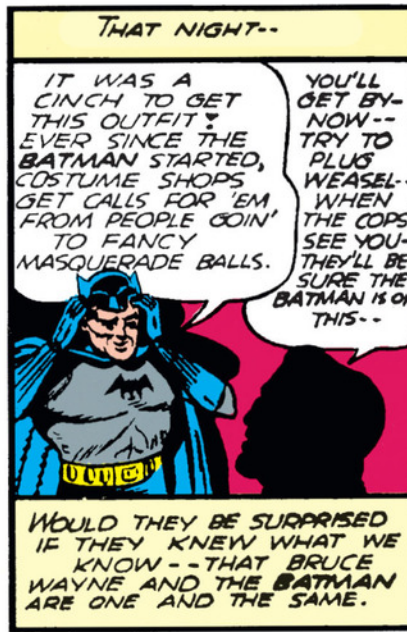
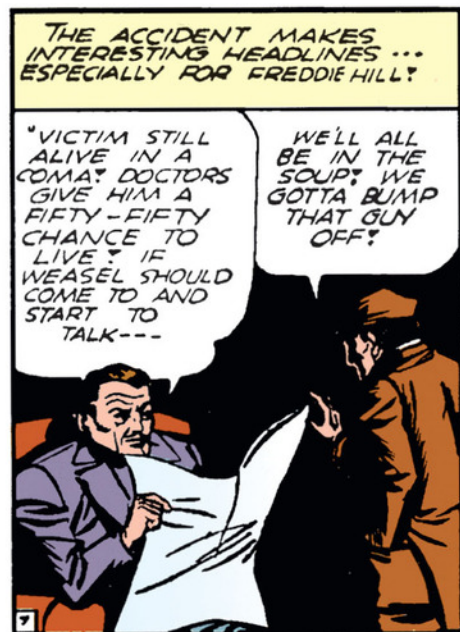
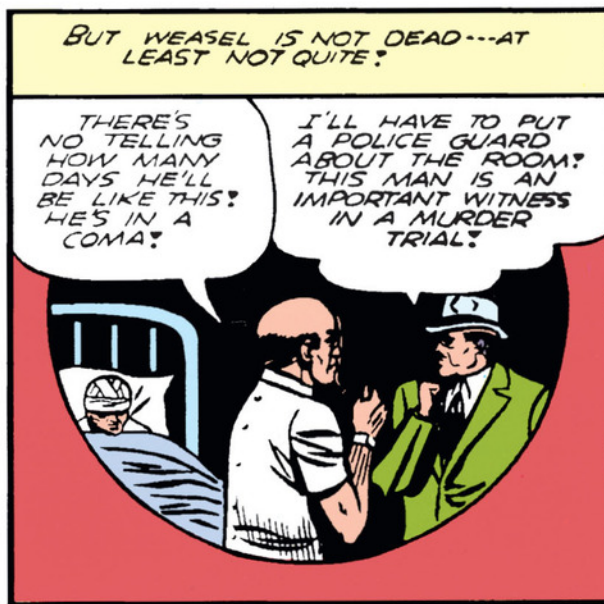
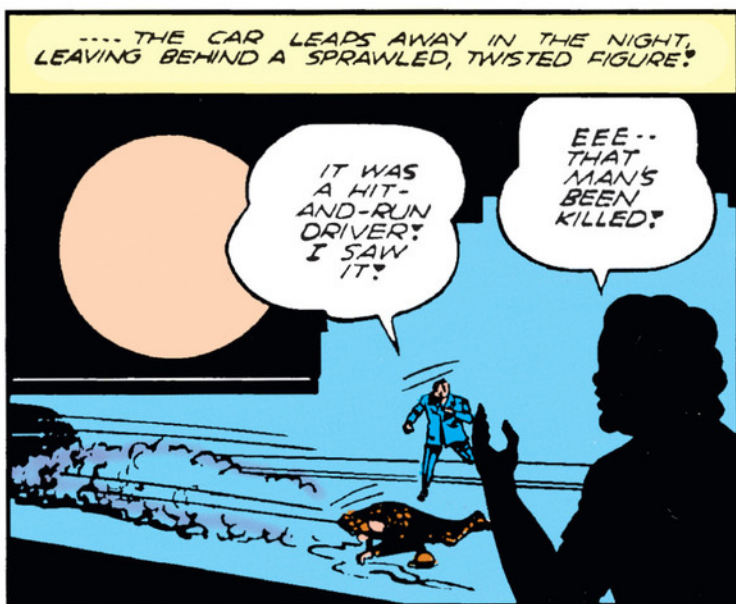
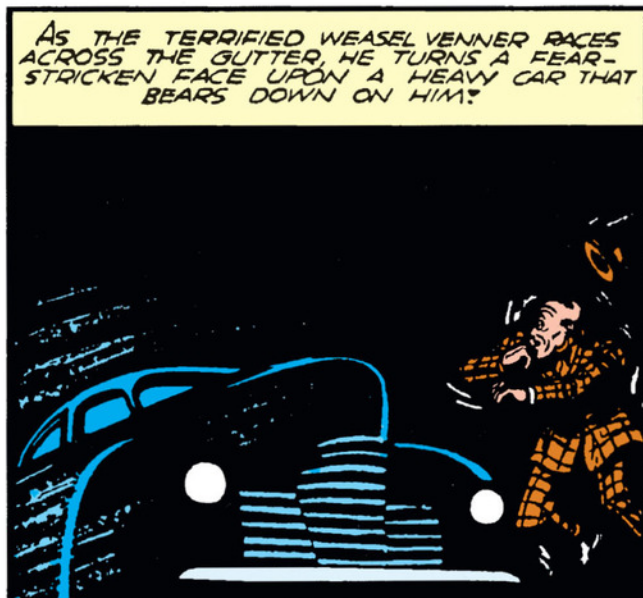


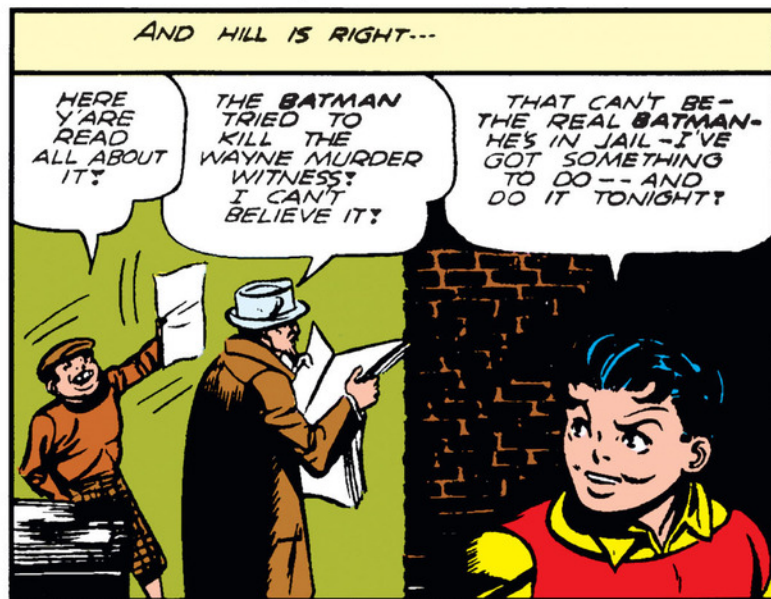
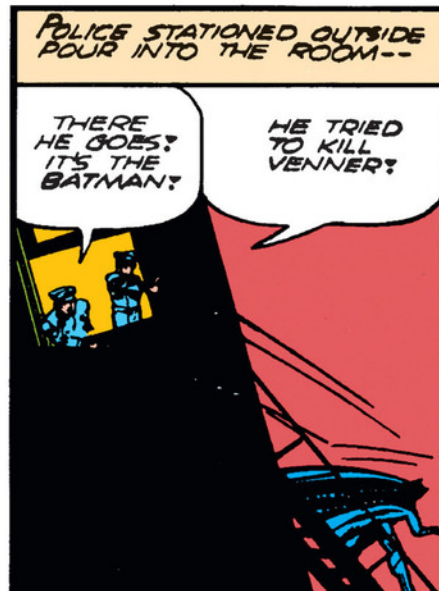
AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE ON THE RUN---

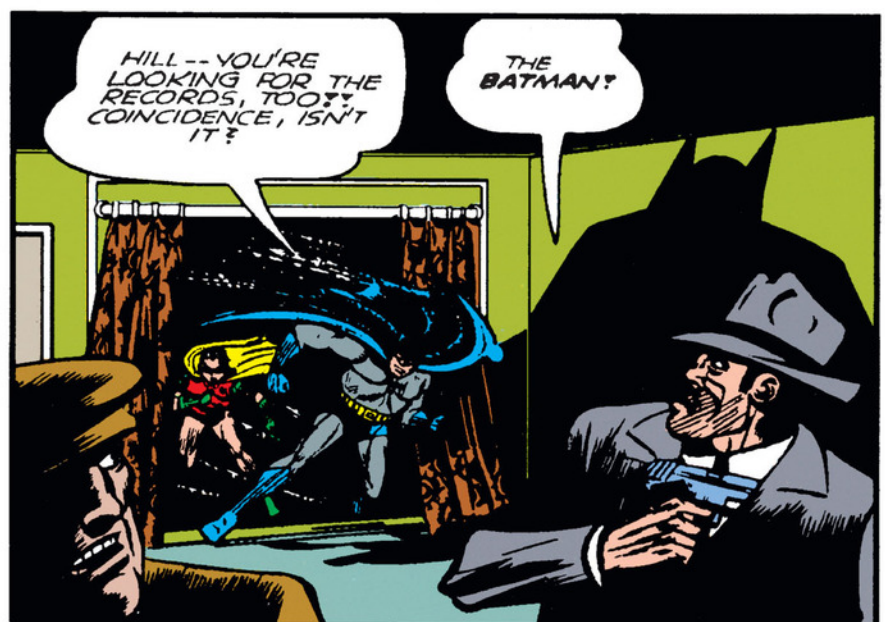
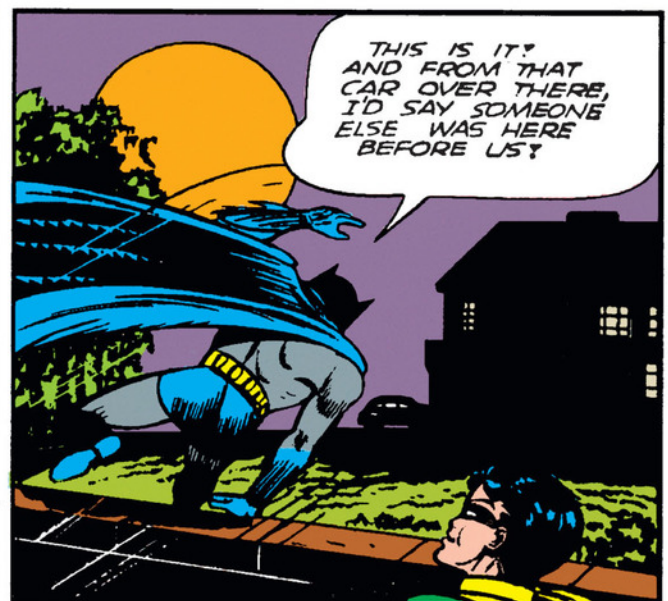
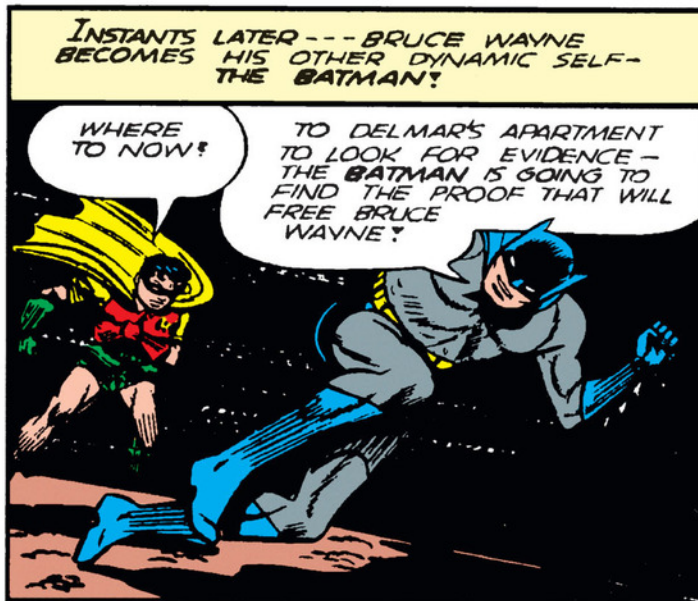
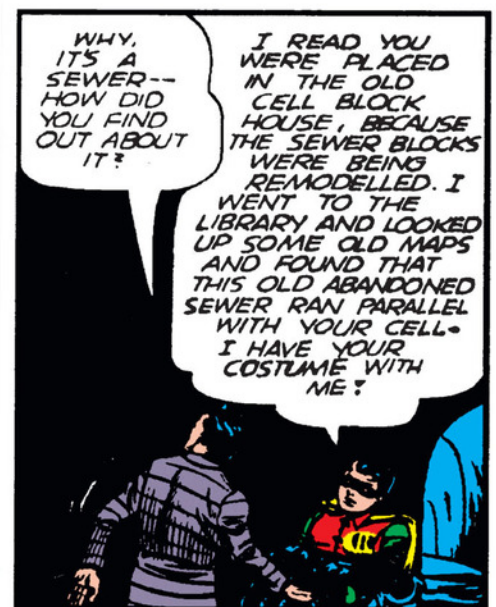
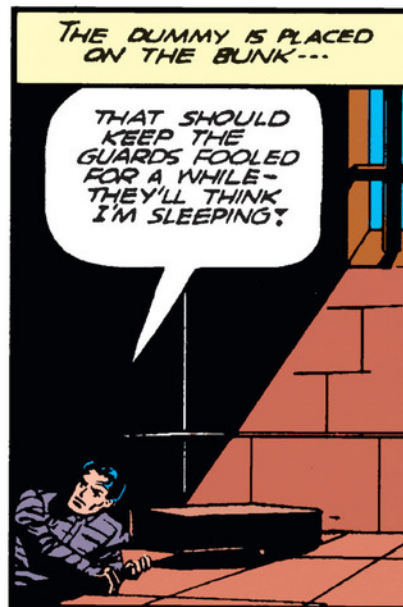


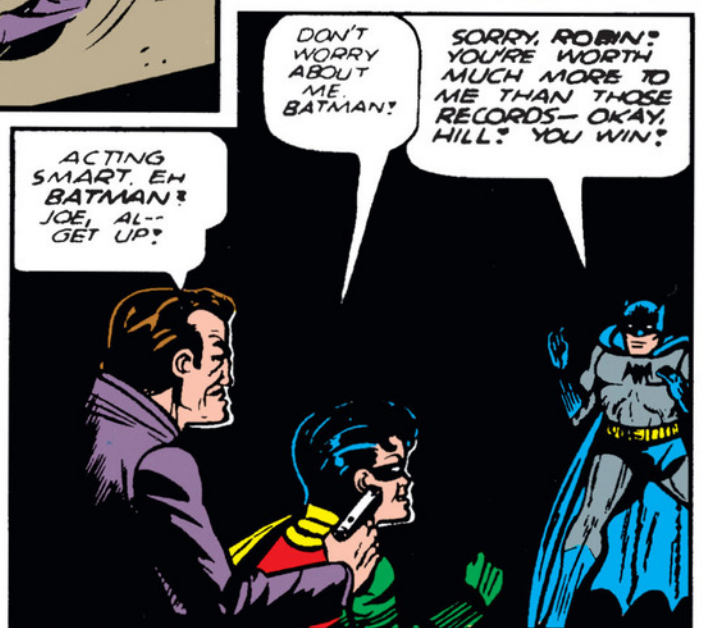
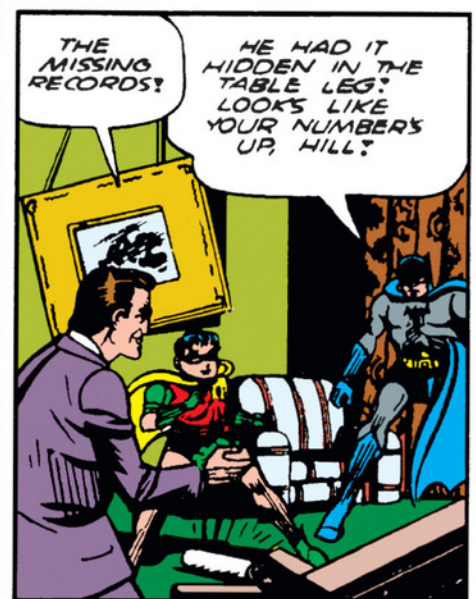
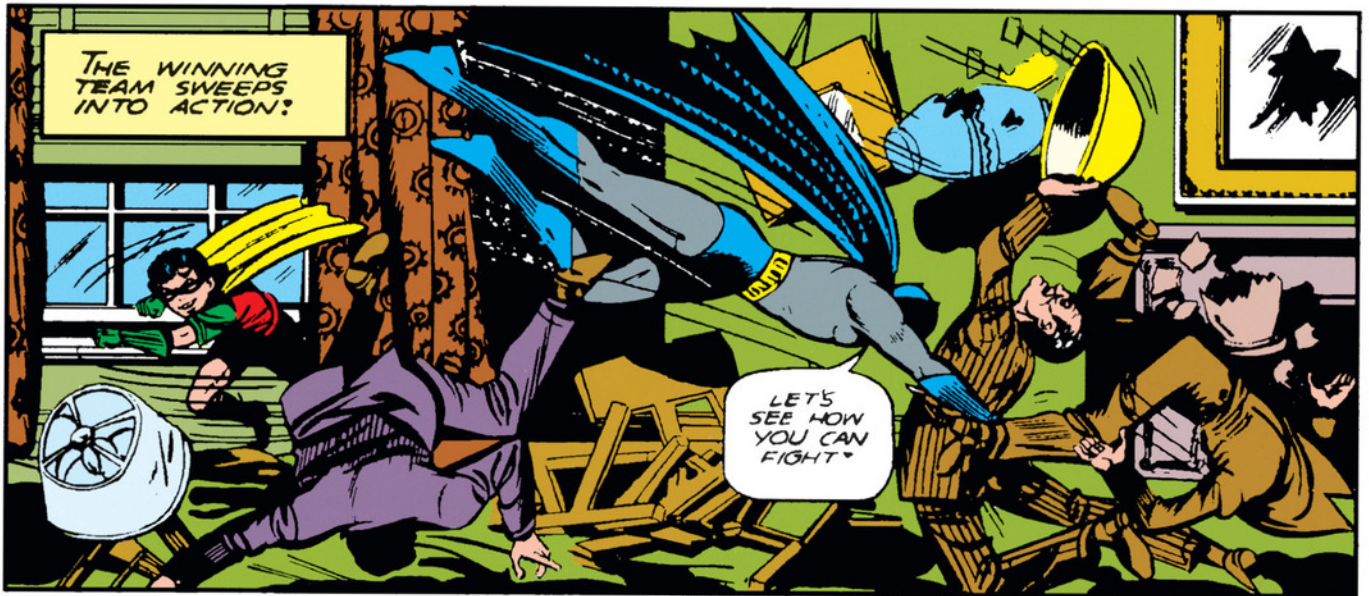




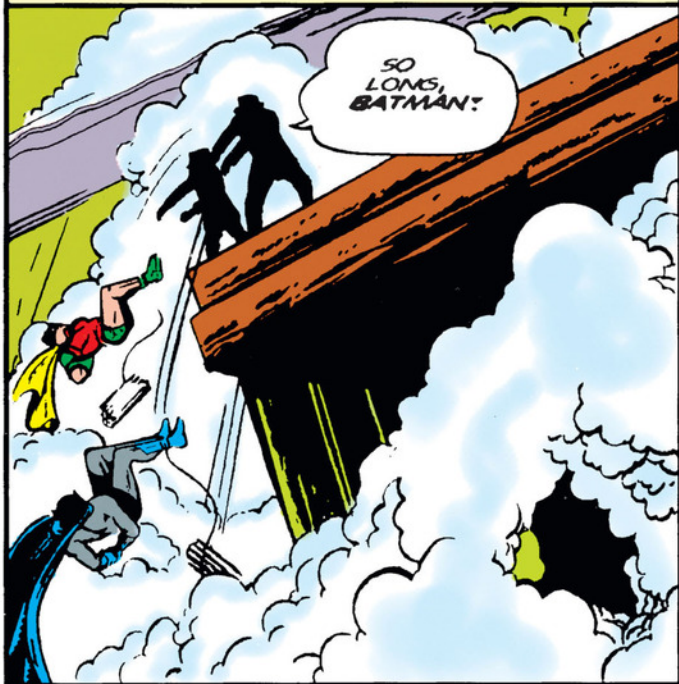






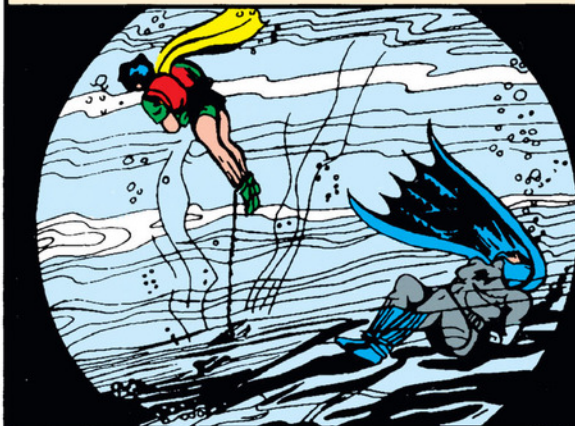


LATER--ON A DESERTED PIER-- WITH IRON TIED TO THEIR FEET, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THROWN TOWARD SWIRLING WATERS?



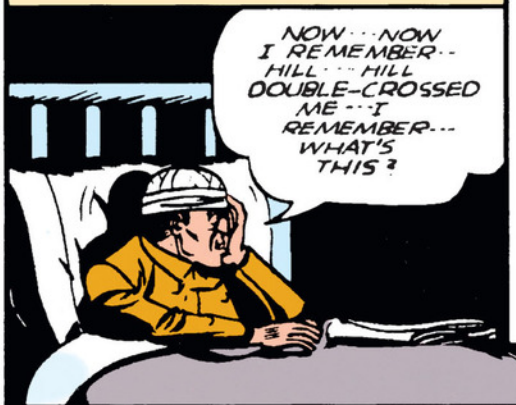
SO LONG, BATMAN!

DOWN--DOWN--SINK THE WEIGHTED BODIES, DOWN TO THE RIVER BED--



-- WHERE DEATH WAITS TO DRIVE THE BREATH FROM THEIR BURSTING LUNGS?

WEASEL HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE COMA, AS HIS NURSE RACES TO CALL THE DOCTOR?



NOW...NOW I REMEMBER-- HILL...HILL DOUBLE-CROSSED ME--I REMEMBER-- WHAT'S THIS?

OH, YEAH--? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT-- I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY--BUT I'LL SHOW HILL WHAT IT MEANS TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME-- I GOTTA GET AWAY!



AND WHEN THE NURSE RETURNS SHE FINDS WEASEL IS--



GONE? HE'S GONE-- THROUGH THAT OPEN WINDOW?

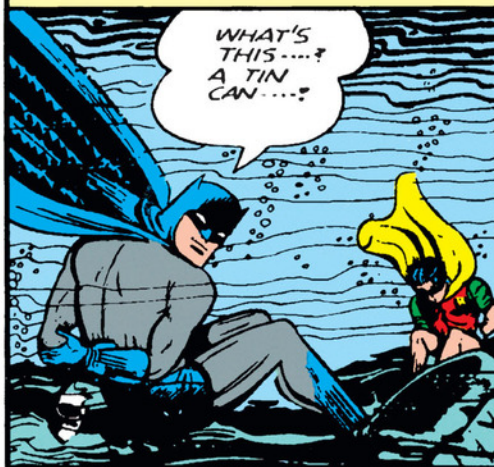
AND TWO POLICE GUARDS, WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO FETCH BRUCE WAYNE TO TRIAL, RACE BACK TO INFORM THE ASTOUNDED COURT THAT HE, TOO, IS--



GONE? BRUCE WAYNE GONE? BROKE OUT?

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM-- FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

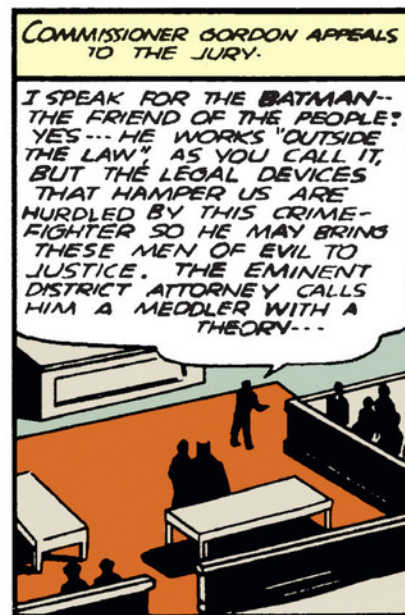
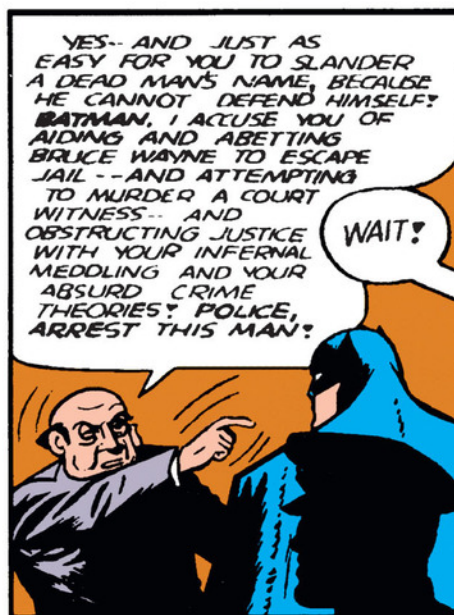
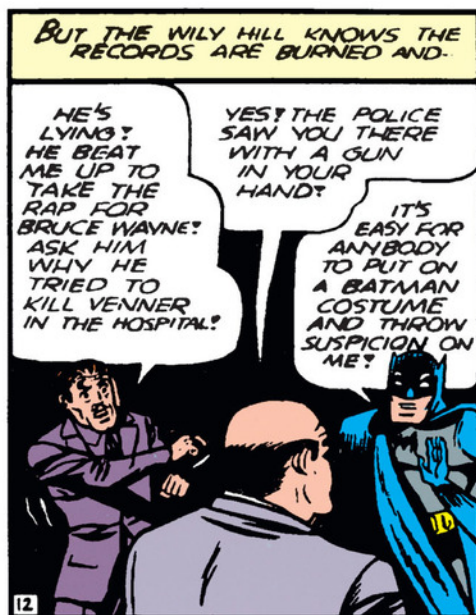
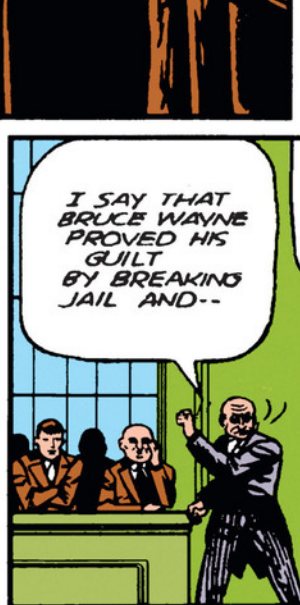
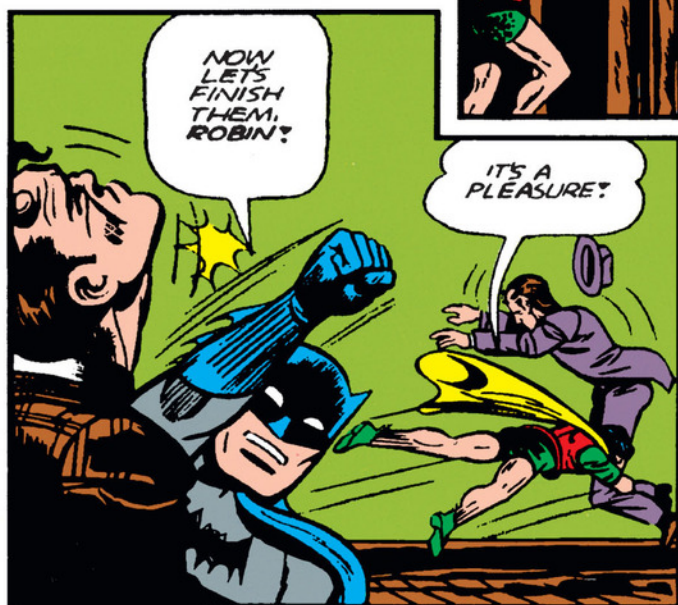
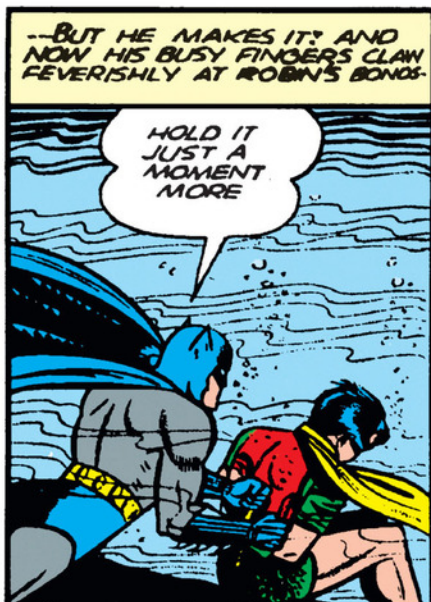
"FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"-- TRUE WORDS? FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?

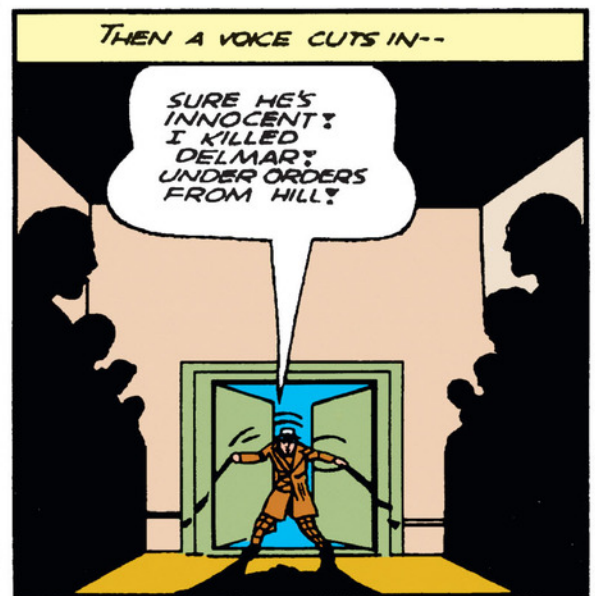
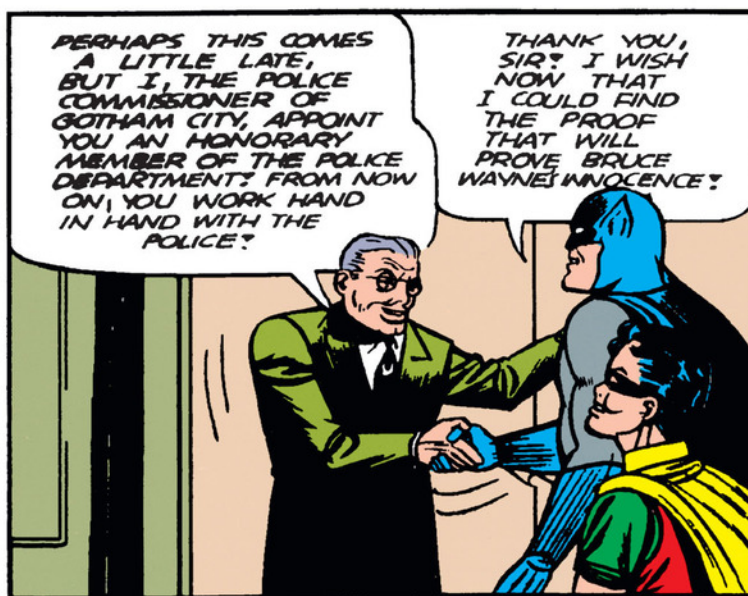
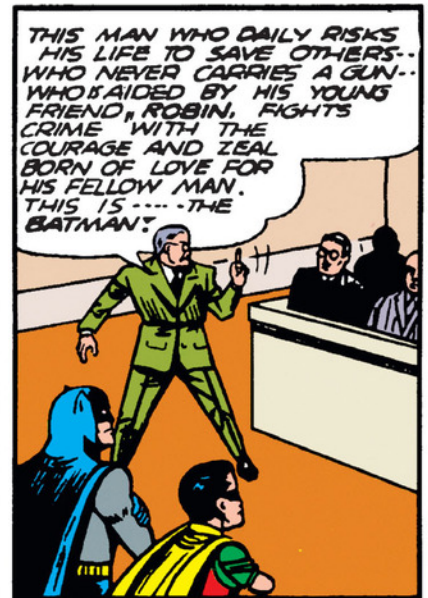
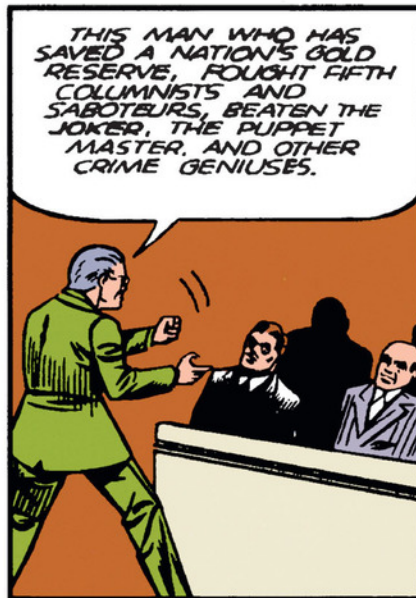
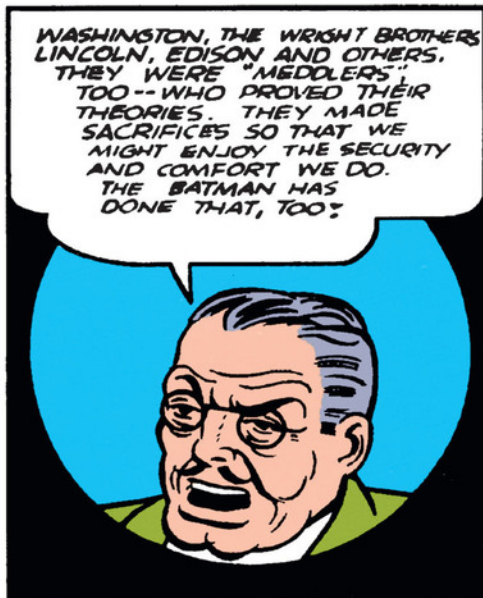


WHAT'S THIS....? A TIN CAN....?

DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RAKES HIS BONDS, BACK AND FORTH, ON THE ROUGH EDGE----- WILL HE FREE HIMSELF IN TIME?







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American popular culture has produced few heroic figures as famous and enduring as that of the Batman. The dark, mysterious hero who debuted in 1939's DETECTIVE COMICS #27 as the lone "Bat-man" quickly grew into the legend of the Caped Crusader. After his landmark debut and origin story, the Dark Knight was given many seminal elements, including his partner in crime-fighting Robin, the Boy Wonder, and such adversaries as the Joker, the Penguin and Scarecrow.

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This second volume of **BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE** collects the Dark Knight Detective's early adventures from **BATMAN #4-7**, **DETECTIVE COMICS #46-56**, **WORLD'S BEST COMICS #1** and **WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #2-3**.

